Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-91-008
Friday
11 January 1991

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-91-008 *11 January 1991*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: As of 2 January 1991, television sourcelines in the DAILY REPORT will reflect how a station identifies itself. In most cases, this change eliminates the "Television Service" designation in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new television sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Central American Presidents Arrive for Summit 1
To Meet With Mexican President *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 1
Calderon Comments on Gulf, Summit *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 1
Presidents' Draft Statement Disclosed *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 1

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Commentary Views U.S.-Iraqi Talks *[Havana Radio]* 2
14 Tried for Theft, Receiving Stolen Goods *[Havana TV]* 2
Cement Factory Prepares To Use Cuban Crude Oil *[Havana TV]* 2
AIDS Patients Treated at Guantanamo City Hospital *[Havana Radio]* 2
Trade Agreement Extension Signed With Switzerland *[Havana TV]* 3

Barbados

ADVOCATE Editorial on Haitian Coup Attempt *[CANA]* 3

Haiti

Lafontant Reportedly Planned Army Reshuffle *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 3
Colonel Reacts to Alleged Appointment *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 4
Reported Air Force 'Mutiny' Ends; Order Restored *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 4
Cap-Haitien 'Still Tense'; Death Toll Hits 14 *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 4
Violence, Killing Continue in Capital 9 Jan *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 4

Trinidad and Tobago

GUARDIAN Editorial on Recent Events in Haiti *[CANA]* 5

MEXICO

Government To Provide 'Moral Support' in Gulf *[NOTIMEX]* 6

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

FMLN Communique Reports 'Murder' Investigation *[Radio Farabundo Marti]* 7
Comparison of FMLN Communique on Investigation 7
FMLN Spokesman Comments on Investigation *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 7
FMLN Leader Discusses Implications of Incident *[Radio Farabundo Marti]* 8
Radio Venceremos Defends FMLN Record on POW's 9
Intercept Said To Link FMLN Leaders, Atrocity *[EL DIARIO DE HOY 10 Jan]* 10
Rebels Shoot Down Helicopter, Injure 2 Crewmen *[San Salvador Radio]* 10

Honduras

Callejas Reacts to 'Failed' Baker-'Aziz Meeting *[Tegucigalpa TV]* 10

Nicaragua

Chamorro Institutes Cabinet Reshuffle *[ACAN]* 11
Cabinet Members Announced *[Managua Radio]* 11
Humberto Ortega Administers Army Loyalty Oath *[Managua Radio]* 12
Comments on Missile Scandal *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 12
Daniel Ortega Comments on Eve of Baghdad Visit *[BARRICADA 10 Jan]* 13
'Official Sources' Acknowledge Soviet Shipment *[ACAN]* 13
Government Policies Cause Some Contras To Rearm *[BARRICADA 8 Jan]* 14
Weapons Discovery in Matagalpa Results in Arrest *[Managua TV]* 14

Panama

Linares Comments on Meeting With Congressmen *[Panama City TV]* 15
Endara Denies Pressure on MLAA *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 10 Jan]* 15

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Congress To Decide Gulf Participation Next Week *[TELAM]* 16
Hercules Plane To Depart for Persian Gulf *[Buenos Aires Radio]* 16
Alleged Corruption, Swift-Armour Case Reported 16
Minister: Company Surprised at Rumors *[TELAM]* 16
Gonzalez Explains Corruption Case *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 16
Menem: U.S. Relations 'Normal' *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 17
Menem Deems U.S. Charges 'Clumsy' *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 17
Cavallo: Relations Being Undermined *[TELAM]* 17
Supposed Estonian Immigration Plans Viewed *[LA PRENSA 8 Jan]* 17

Bolivia

Vice President Welcomes U.S. Drug Case Verdict *[La Paz Radio]* 18
Government Says COB Strike Partially Observed *[La Paz TV]* 18
Minister Reports Plans To Reduce Public Expenses *[La Paz TV]* 18
Culture Cooperation Accord Signed With Germany *[La Paz TV]* 19

Brazil

Foreign Ministry Deactivates Embassy in Baghdad *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 19
Government Sends Crisis Monitor to Gulf Region *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 9 Jan]* 19
Bank Chief Evaluates Effect of Gulf War on Debt *[Brasilia Radio]* 20
Argentine Scientists To Inspect Nuclear Sites *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 6 Jan]* 20
Cuban Experts To Participate in Vaccine Project *[Brasilia Radio]* 21
Nov Unemployment Rate Totaled 4.25 Percent *[Brasilia Radio]* 21
Prices for 400 Medicines To Drop by 60 Percent *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 21

Chile

Government Backs UN Leader's Gulf Peace Effort *[Santiago Radio]* 22
Plane Ready To Leave, Evacuate Citizens in Gulf *[Santiago Radio]* 22
3-Month Oil Supply Available in Case of War *[Santiago Radio]* 22
Politicians React to Charges of Smear Campaign 23
Army Charges 'Harsh Campaign' *[Santiago Radio]* 23
Supreme Court President Denies Pressure *[Santiago Radio]* 23
PDC Deems Army Support Declaration Unnecessary *[Santiago Radio]* 23
Communist Leader Criticizes Communique *[Santiago Radio]* 24

Chief of Staff Declines To Comment on Criticism *[Santiago Radio]* 24
Government Support Grows Following Army Incident *[Santiago Radio]* 24
Labor Problems Lead Aylwin To Cancel Appearance *[Santiago Radio]* 25
Expanded Presidential Pardon Authority Approved *[Santiago Radio]* 25
Foreign Minister Congratulates Haitian Counterpart *[Santiago Radio]* 25
La Serena Described as Important Cocaine Route *[Santiago Radio]* 25

Colombia

EPL Agrees To Surrender Weapons 1 Mar *[Bogota Radio]* 26
EPL Spokesmen on Guerrillas Returning to Camp *[EL TIEMPO 5 Jan]* 26
Police Capture FARC Guerrilla Commander 'Raul' *[AFP]* 26
FARC Rebels Kidnap 15 Soldiers in Meta *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 27
FARC Attack on Barrancabermeja Airport Thwarted *[Bogota TV]* 27
Liberal Party Senator Said Kidnapped in Medellin *[Madrid EFE]* 27

Ecuador

President Concerned With Persian Gulf Situation *[Quito Radio]* 28

Paraguay

Colorado Party Endorses Government Decree *[ABC COLOR 10 Jan]* 28
Rodriguez Leaves for 3-Day Visit to Uruguay *[Asuncion TV]* 29

Peru

Senator Reports Terrorist Casualty Statistics *[Lima TV]* 29
Shining Path Members Kill 4 Soldiers in Ambush *[Madrid EFE]* 29

Venezuela

Perez Views Persian Gulf, 'Emerency Measures' *[Caracas TV]* 29
Plane Crashes With Military Personnel on Board *[AFP]* 29

Central American Presidents Arrive for Summit

To Meet With Mexican President

PA1101003291 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2345 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Tuxtla Gutierrez, 10 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The five Central American presidents arrived in this city today to participate in their first meeting with Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to discuss economic, trade, financial, and political topics.

Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro was the last to arrive at the airport in this city located in Chiapas State, on the border with Guatemala.

The six presidents will begin their first session of talks at approximately 1800 and two hours later they will attend an event at Tuxtla Gutierrez' main plaza, where there will be a fireworks display.

Later in the evening, they will attend a dinner and they will resume their talks tomorrrow at 0900. There will be a recess at noon and then they will begin their third round of talks in the afternoon. The meeting will end with the signing of documents.

Calderon Comments on Gulf, Summit

PA1101034191 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2245 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Tuxtla Gutierrez, 10 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon expressed hope here today that the Persian Gulf conflict will be solved peacefully and he indicated that the problem in that region could be one "of the causes of grief and bloodshed."

Calderon is attending the presidential summit of Central America and Mexico which will be held on 10 and 11 January in this city in southern Chiapas State. Calderon said that the presidents are willing to seek the "path of peace in the Middle East."

Previously, in statements in San Jose, Calderon had said the Costa Rican people "will ask God to enlighten Saddam Husayn to avoid war in the Persian Gulf."

Regarding the topics to be addressed in the summit, Calderon said they will analyze cooperation in the supply of petroleum. "Mexico, the same as Venezuela, has shown what fair treatment among nations should be like in the area of petroleum." He said that with the San Jose Pact which was signed in 1982, "Mexico has shown the world its friendly and brotherly cooperation."

"Thanks to Mexico's generosity and Venezuela's understanding, the economic impact of the Persian Gulf crisis has been somewhat attenuated," Calderon added.

Presidents' Draft Statement Disclosed

PA1101035891 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0145 GMT 11 Jan 91

[By Maria Cortina]

[Text] Tuxtla Gutierrez, 10 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The presidents of Mexico and Central America will express their concern about the continuing war in El Salvador and will reiterate their recognition of the United Nations for its role as mediator, according to a draft joint statement.

According to a preliminary 24-point document, to which NOTIMEX had access, the presidents expressed their desire to achieve, without any delays, a national reconciliation in El Salvador.

At the Tuxtla summit, the presidents will review the current progress being made in the peace talks held in El Salvador and will reiterate their support of the United Nations and to countries such as Mexico, Colombia, Spain, and Venezuela.

As for the situation in Guatemala, they will recognize the Guatemalan Government for its commitment to keeping the lines of communication open with the Guatemalan guerrillas.

The presidents will express their satisfaction with the agreements that the countries of the region have signed regarding security, verification, supervision, and limitation of weapons and military troops.

As for the economic aspects, according to the document, the presidents will reiterate the need for greater international support for Central America as a way to promote regional development.

The joint communique, which will be signed by the presidents of Mexico and Central America, will also include a statement rejecting drug trafficking and another one favoring a new international ecological cooperation order.

The presidents agreed to establish, in the short run, mechanisms of cooperation that will prevent and end drug trafficking and consumption.

The Persian Gulf conflict and its consequences for the region will also be reviewed in the summit, according to the document. The summit will conclude with a call for renewed efforts by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Cuba

Commentary Views U.S.-Iraqi Talks

FL1001192291 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 10 Jan 91

["Our Opinion" commentary read by Orlando Contreras]

[Text] As it is well known, UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar is leaving today for Baghdad to make another effort to mediate to avoid a catastrophe, that is, war.

According to the U.S. decision, which was approved by the UN Security Council, the deadline for Iraq to unconditionally withdraw from Kuwait expires in five days. If Iraq does not do so, it will suffer a massive attack by the United States and 22 other countries that support Washington in this war deployment.

It must be added that the UN Security Council—which is in charge of safeguarding the peace and security of UN member countries—cannot resort to the use of force for the solution of disputes among countries. However, in today's unipolar world, this is precisely what it did. It is also true that the occupation of Kuwait by force violates the UN Charter and international rights.

The failure of the Baker-'Aziz talks in Geneva yesterday was expected because there can be no negotiations based on an ultimatum. Therefore, I believe that a mediator must be sent not only to Baghdad but also to Washington. This is needed because the United States lacks any ethical integrity to defend international rights or UN principles which it has repeatedly violated. Moreover, the United States is using a double standard by condoning Israel's occupation of Arab territories, Israel's territorial expansion through the use of force, and the subjection of the Palestine people to Zionism.

Time goes on, however, while the world heads for a possible war of unforseeable consequences, particularly for Third World countries—which will be the ones to suffer the most—and for a possible ecological disaster.

Common sense, responsibility before history, and the call of duty must prevail in these difficult times in view of possible death and irrational destruction unless all ethical and human considerations, arrogance, hegemonic whims, and self-indulgence prevail in a unipolar world that is truly witnessing the end of history.

Most of the world, hundreds of millions of men who are neither genuinely represented at international fora nor make decisions at the UN Security Council, demand that their future not be cut short, that an enormous energy potential not be destroyed merely to guarantee cheap oil, and above anything else that human life not be destroyed.

14 Tried for Theft, Receiving Stolen Goods

FL1001160191

[Editorial Report] Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish at 1345 GMT on 10 January carries in its regularly scheduled "Revista de la Manana" program a segment entitled: "Encuentro con el Fiscal," Meet the Prosecutor.

The segment, conducted by journalist Maribel Puerto, carries recorded excerpts of a trial of 14 individuals charged with theft, concealment, and receiving stolen property.

The video shows a defendant, identified as Alberto Hernandez Robaina, standing and testifying before the court on the theft of a car perpetrated on 7 February. The video also shows other defendants answering to the judge on the theft of unspecified merchandise.

A medium shot shows the prosecutor making his closing arguments, stating that economic crimes lead to disorganization, negligence, and indolence. He adds that this crime is not a common theft case but that of organized crime including falsification of license plates and of several documents.

The video shows the presiding female judge reading the sentences imposed on those accused of theft, concealment, and receiving stolen property ranging from four years of imprisonment to the payment of fines.

Cement Factory Prepares To Use Cuban Crude Oil

FL1001135291 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] The Jose Merceron cement factory in Santiago de Cuba is preparing its installations to use Cuban crude oil by the first trimester of 1991. The Jose Merceron cement factory will be the fourth cement factory to use Cuban crude oil. Once this objective is achieved by all Cuban cement factories, they will be able to save about 200,000 tons of imported oil per year.

AIDS Patients Treated at Guantanamo City Hospital

FL1001195091 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Report by Jose Mejias from Guantanamo Province]

[Excerpts] AIDS patients are being treated at the hospital located in southern Guantanamo City. All this is part of a national program which seeks for AIDS victims to have a better relationship with their relatives and friends, to improve psychotherapy techniques, and to offer specialized medical treatment. [passage omitted]

Guantanamo Province recorded a total of 17 AIDS cases by the end of 1990. All these patients, who were being treated in Havana, have now been transferred to the hospital located in southern Guantanamo City.

Speaking about the work carried out on AIDS control and prevention throughout Guantanamo Province, Dr. Hector Terry, Cuban public health vice minister, told this radio station the following:

[Begin Hector Terry recording] Guantanamo has carried out good research work. It was the first to carry out research work in the mountain region. As you know, the Guantanamo mountain region was one of the first to benefit from the family doctor program. In keeping with inherent characteristics of Guantanamo Province, the family doctor program allowed Guantanamo Province to carry out a massive research on the new leprosy program. The blood samples obtained in the leprosy program were also used [for AIDS tests]. This was done to save resources because routine procedure calls for the assessment of the situation of the AIDS population. [end recording]

I reassert that AIDS patients are already being treated at the hospital which has been set up for this purpose in southern Guantanamo City. A total of 17 AIDS cases were reported in Guantanamo Province by the end of 1990.

Trade Agreement Extension Signed With Switzerland

FL1001133391 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Cuba and Switzerland have signed an extension of a bilateral trade agreement for 1991. The agreement was signed by Alcibiades Hidalgo Basulto, Cuban first vice foreign minister, and Marcus Kaiser, Swiss ambassador to Cuba.

The signing ceremony, which was attended by Cuban and Swiss officials, was held at the Foreign Ministry in Havana.

Barbados

ADVOCATE Editorial on Haitian Coup Attempt

FL0801170091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1600 GMT 8 Jan 1991

[From the press review of THE ADVOCATE—date not given]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, 8 Jan (CANA)—There is hope for Haiti after all. The short-lived coup by Duvalierist Dr. Roger Lafontant and a small band of supporters, shows that the Haitian are at this point prepared to protect their democracy. Lafontant had vowed that he would not allow President-elect Reverend Jean-Betrand Aristide, 37, a leftist Roman Catholic priest, to take office. Aristide is to take up office from February 7 after being elected in the first fully democratic elections held in Haiti since it gained independence from France in 1804.

The country has been ruled by tyrants ever since its independence and its 6 million people are now among the poorest in the region. None of Haiti's despots has been benevolent. They have all enriched themselves at the expense of their people who have remain downtrodden. As impoverished as the country has become, those who have formed these governments have still managed to live in style even if only for short periods.

Lafontant's coup was short-lived because the Army High Command did not give him the support he thought would have been forthcoming. This is something new for Haiti where Lafontant once headed the dreaded Tonton Macoute militia and wielded much influence in the Duvalier days.

This time the people did not run for cover from the streets when the news of Lafontant's coup spread. Many of them in the capital, Port-au-Prince, mounted protests and it would seem that the Army was sympathetic on this occasion and saved the people's democracy.

It is a sign that the mood in Haiti is changing. Lafontant obviously made a grave miscalculation. He was prevented from running for president on a technicality after returning to Haiti last year from a five-year exile in the neighbouring Dominican Republic and harboured a grudge.

His case has served as an early test of how serious the Haitian people have become about running their own affairs. If their efforts are to succeed the Army must be prepared to support the people's democratic sentiments. This time around the Army did not let down the country.

Haiti

Lafontant Reportedly Planned Army Reshuffle

FL1001211091 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1930 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Within the scope of the attempted coup-d'etat of Roger Lafontant on the night of 6 January 1991, many rumors were circulating, rumors suggesting that there would be a reshuffle within the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH].

According to a communique allegedly written by Roger Lafontant to reform the Army, we find the names of all the commanders he planned to appoint, to reinstate, or to promote. The note states the following:

The National Palace, Republic of Haiti, 7 January 1991.

The members of the FADH are informed that these changes are effective as of this date.

Colonel Gerard Louis [arrested with Lafontant], FADH, is appointed commander-in-chief of the FADH, with the rank of lieutenant-general;
Colonel Jean C. Valme is appointed assistant commander-in-chief with the rank of major general;
Gregoire Figaro, FADH, is appointed FADH inspector general with the rank of major general of brigade.

This comes from a note which may have been written by Roger Lafontant appointing these people to the leadership of the Army had his coup-d'etat been a success.

As aides de camp, it is CHOMG [as heard]. We do not know exactly what this means. It says that:

Colonel Jean C. Mallet, FADH, would be in CHOMG 1;

Colonel Emmanuel Orsel [former Tontons Macoutes secret police colonel], FADH, would be in CHOMG 2;

Clarel Clermont, FADH, would be in CHOMG 3; and

Jean-Claude Duperval, FADH, would be in room 4 [as heard].

Colonel Raoul Cedras [head of the Committee for Security in the 16 December Elections], FADH, would be chief of the General Staff;

Captain David Bazile, FADH, would be General Staff secretary;

Lieutenant-Colonel Ludovic Rene, FADH, would be chief of the Port-au-Prince police.

The other colonels who would be reinstated in the Army are the following officers:

Colonel Guy Francois [expelled from the Army and exiled by General Prosper Avril following the April 1989 attempted coup], FADH;

Serge David;

Colonel Philippe Biambi [former Presidential Guard commander, also involved in 1989 coup];

Colonel Himler Rebus [former Leopards Corps commander and leader of the 1989 attempted coup];

Lieutenant Guy Max Menard;

Lieutenant-Colonel Alexis Rubens;

Lieutenant-Colonel Leonce Qualo [Dessalines Barracks commander during the 1989 coup]; and

Major Aurel Frederic.

This all comes from a note which was probably written by Roger Lafontant, who wanted to reinstate these people in the Haitian Army and promote the ones we just named if the 6-7 January had succeeded.

Colonel Reacts to Alleged Appointment

FL1101134091 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Former Colonel Himler Rebus [former head of the Corps of Leopards, exiled after an unsuccessful coup attempt against General Prosper Avril in April 1989], whose name has been mentioned twice as someone who would likely side with Roger Lafontant, has repeated that he does not have any association with the Macoutes. If Roger Lafontant allegedly intends to reinstate him in the Army, it is Roger Lafontant's personal initiative. He has never seen Roger Lafontant. Furthermore, he makes his own decisions. [passage omitted]

Reported Air Force 'Mutiny' Ends; Order Restored

FL1001212091 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Through a press release dated 9 January concerning the 8 January mutiny at the Corps d'Aviation [Haitian Air Force] of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH], we have been informed that a delegation from the General Headquarters has gone to the scene and that, after an examination of the problem, order has been restored and the commander who was forced to leave his post has been reinstated in his position. Other officers who were forced out by the soldiers went back to their posts, according to this note issued by the General Headquarters of the FADH.

Cap-Haitien 'Still Tense'; Death Toll Hits 14

FL1001211591 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 10 Jan 91

[Excerpt] The situation is still tense in Cap-Haitien; three more people died yesterday afternoon. That brings the number of dead people to 14 in the second largest city in the country. Over 12 houses have been set afire and looted in Cap-Haitien.

Cap-Haitien Mayor Mrs. Rosana Dugue asks the people and the Haitian Army to be calm so that peace can be restored in Cap-Haitien. [passage omitted]

Violence, Killing Continue in Capital 9 Jan

FL1001215091 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Four days after the abortive bid for power by Roger Lafontant, scenes of violence and of uprooting operations [dechouque] claimed new victims in Port-au-Prince and the provinces yesterday.

The wind of looting operations blew on reputed Lafontant henchmen, with Macoutes being killed or terrorized by demonstrators. According to a partial evaluation, 70 people have died, 59 in the capital, since the beginning of the operation conducted by the population which led to the arrest of Roger Lafontant and his accomplices.

In Port-au-Prince yesterday, the business sector, a serious victim of the looting operations, stayed closed, except for a few grocery stores and a few drugstores, especially in Petionville, which stayed open. Additionally, traffic has begun to move on the different arteries in Port-au-Prince where the remains of barricades can still be seen. I will read some remarks from our reporter, WJL [not further identified]:

Plunder, robbery, and violence—the capital saw another day of destruction on 9 January. This Wednesday will end with a serious and sad evaluation. In Port-au-Prince, a half dozen purported Macoutes fell to the law of Pere Lebrun [killing a person by placing burning tires around his neck], especially in Cite Soleil, where a man was stoned to death and burned by the population. There was

a similar situation on the airport road where one could see burning tires, another purported zenglendo whose identity is still unknown. Such actions mean that a manhunt is still going on in the metropolitan area. At noon another purported attache [military man not belonging to a specific corps], called Ti Bete, escaped near the cemetery of Port-au-Prince. Finally Ti Bete was able to hide under a bridge as several demonstrators ran after him to lynch him. At 1500 the demonstrators were standing firm, trying to get Ti Bete's head. He had no idea of what to do to save his life. How it will ed, no one really knows.

The wave of looting operations and plunder was still sweeping over Port-au-Prince this Wednesday: Even some stores which had already been looted and plundered downtown were still visited by the looters. In other localities such as Cite Soleil, Delmas, and Carrefour looters attempted some plundering operations without success.

The capital is still experiencing some dark hours following the abortive bid for power by Roger Lafontant. Port-au-Prince and its suburbs appear more and more unusual.

Trinidad and Tobago

GUARDIAN Editorial on Recent Events in Haiti

FL0801183091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1615 GMT 8 Jan 91

[From the press review of THE GUARDIAN—date not given]

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, 8 Jan (CANA)—The news that the Army in Haiti had remained loyal to the caretaker president and that the attempted coup there on Sunday night [6 January] had been put down, is very good news indeed.

News of the attempted coup executed by Dr. Roger Lafontant, reputed to be the former head of the Tonton Macoutes during the "Papa Doc" Duvalier dictatorship, was greeted with a deep sense of tragedy for this poor country struggling to forge a democratic way of life. This atrocious act by the feared leader of a faction loyal to exiled dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier, was even more galling coming so soon after the December 16 presidential election in which the Reverend Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a Roman Catholic priest, was elected by a heavy popular vote.

That election was the first free one in Haiti since the Republic gained its independence from France in 1804, and was considered to have been fair and democractically conducted by international observers, including a team from our country.

For decades on end the people of Haiti have lived under the heel of repressive dictatorships, that of Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier being one of the most notorious.

When Supreme Court justice, Mrs. Ertha Pascal Trouillot, was installed as provisional president on March 13 last year, following the constitutional reforms after the collapse of the Jean Claude Duvalier regime, friends of Haiti looked forward to a period of democratic tranquility for that country.

Poverty stricken as it is and with its history of fear bred by dictatorships, we knew the transition would not be easy. We did not expect, however, that less than a month later Haiti's wish to be free it would once more be brutally challenged.

The attempted assumption of power by Lafontant, had it succeeded, would have put the country on the verge of another period of violent turbulence, as clearly the masses of people are against the take-over and demonstrated this just as clearly between Sunday and yesterday. But this act by Lafontant is worrying indeed as it clearly demonstrates that Haiti is still a country in deep trouble where its military is concerned, it seems almost certain that there will be repetitions.

Haiti stands today as one of the most undeveloped countries of the world. Economically it is one of the poorest nations and this latest political activity can only have the effect of further retarding its progress.

Reports from the Republic indicate that Lafontant, along with other Duvalierists, had been openly opposed to the transfer of power to democratic institutions. The hopes of the Haitian people for constitutionally guaranteed freedoms, for the power to guide their own destinies, and of escape from the economic morass in which previous tyrants kept the Republic, have suffered a setback pending the return to normalcy in the country.

Citizens here in Trinidad and Tobago, who recently suffered the agonising trauma of an attempted coup, will be able to appreciate the terrible consequences which are likely to follow this attempt, though unsuccessful, to thwart Haiti's progress to democratic rule.

One can only hope that there will be no more of these insane incursions and that Haiti will get back on the democratic path on which it has been heading over the past nine months.

After the rapid collapse of the communist dictatorships of Eastern Europe, it seems surprising that there are still some men who do not understand that dictatorial rule is no longer tolerable in the modern world. Certainly it is quite out of place in the Western hemisphere.

It is therefore, our fervent hope, that men like Dr. Lafontant would give up their ridiculous claims, and save the Haitian people from the bloodshed which must follow if they continue to want power through the barrel of a gun, and not the ballot box.

Government To Provide 'Moral Support' in Gulf

PA1001223791 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2114 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Hector Cardenas Rodriguez, an official of the Foreign Relations Secretariat (SRE), has announced that Mexico will not send military forces to the Persian Gulf area, but it will provide moral support to the multinational forces.

Cardenas Rodriguez, director of the SRE Office for the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, explained that Mexico made this decision based on its principles of international policy of nonintervention, "but there is the possibility of sending medical support in the event war breaks out."

When meeting with the Foreign Relations Commission of the Chamber of Deputies, Cardenas Rodriguez said that Mexico will support the resolutions of the UN Security Council.

"However, this does not mean that Mexico must set aside its principles of international policy, including nonintervention, therefore, it can only grant moral support to the nations that seek an end to the occupation of Kuwait," he pointed out.

He admitted that if conflict breaks out, this will affect the national economy, because the price of crude oil will increase up to $100 per barrel.

However, once the conflict is solved there will be a worldwide recession inasmuch as production and supply would be interrupted in that area, one of the main oil regions of the world, he added.

In his opinion, this conflict stems from the fact the oil reserves of "Iraq are limited and will not last beyond the year 2010," whereas Kuwait has huge wells which would help to pay the foreign debt resulting from its war against Iraq.

He reported that the staffs of the Mexican Embassies in the Persian Gulf have been reduced to a minimum and the dependents of the diplomatic corps are in Mexico "so they will not be affected by a possible armed conflict."

Meanwhile, Guadalupe Gomez Maganda, chairperson of the Foreign Relations Commission of the Chamber of Deputies, has said that the actions Mexico will take in this case "will be the responsibility of the federal executive branch, and the legislative branch trusts they will be the adequate measures."

To conclude, Gomez Maganda said that as of 11 February, the undersecretaries of the SRE will be summoned to the Foreign Relations Commission. She added that Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana Morales will also be summoned at a date to be announced.

El Salvador

FMLN Communique Reports 'Murder' Investigation

PA1001174191 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) on 8 January]

[Text] 1. The version given by the military unit directly involved in the shooting down of the U.S.-made helicopter has created inconsistencies in the immediate and later public reports aired in FMLN communiques.

2. As a result of these inconsistencies and contradictions, the FMLN has investigated the facts more closely.

3. The FMLN has reached the conclusion that the shooting down of the helicopter was a completely legitimate defensive action, because the U.S. military advisers provoked such an action by flying in a combat aircraft ready for attack in a war zone.

4. The FMLN also concluded that there was sufficient evidence to indicate that some of the crew, who were prisoners or wounded, could have been murdered by one or more of our men.

5. Based on this, and going deeper into the investigation, the FMLN preventively arrested two members of this military unit, under charges of suspected murder of wounded prisoners of war while in full military control of the area. Such an action seriously harms the public image of the National Army for Democracy and the FMLN.

6. Later, we will report the results of the investigation. If the men's responsibility in the deed is proven, the FMLN will act severely, in accordance with our principles of justice in times of war.

7. This FMLN stand is consistent with our principle of sparing the lives of prisoners of war and the civilian population. Any conscious and premeditated action that violates this policy has been described and severely penalized as a crime. In this case, a similar procedure will be followed, with the exception that this time the investigation will be published because of the dead men's nationality.

[Signed] Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front. 8 January 1991.

Comparison of FMLN Communique on Investigation

PA1001220091

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 10 January carries a communique issued by the FMLN, Farabundo Marti National Liberaton Front, on 8 January on the arrests of the those involved in the deaths of U.S. military personnel.

The Radio Venceremos version has been compared with the (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti version published above and found to be identical, except for the following variation:

Last sentence reads: In this case, a similar procedure will be followed, with the exception that this time the investigation will be published because of the dead men's nationality. [new paragraph]

[Signed] General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front. (including additional elements of signature, omitting date)

FMLN Spokesman Comments on Investigation

PA1101021391 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0009 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] will do justice if it is proven that the U.S. citizens who were aboard the helicopter downed by the guerrillas last week were murdered on the ground. This was stated by Miguel Saenz, a member of the FMLN Political-Diplomatic Commission, who added that his organization is interested in clarifying the situation.

Because of this, he added, the FMLN is conducting investigations among the members of the unit which downed the helicopter and among residents in the area of the incident. He said that the results of the investigation will be made public. He said the investigation might conclude in the next few hours and that if necessary, the FMLN will rectify its initial communique in which it explained the incident.

"We will act seriously and responsibly and there will be no impunity," the FMLN spokesman told NOTIMEX.

Saenz said that the United States has used as a pretext the downing of the helicopter and the alleged Soviet origin of the missiles used by the FMLN to obtain a resumption of the military aid to the Salvadoran Government. If the aid to El Salvador is resumed, the peace efforts in El Salvador and in all Central America would be frustrated, he said.

Saenz described as "absurd" the fact that the FMLN is criticized for obtaining weapons from wherever it can, when Alfredo Cristiani's regime receives whole arsenals from the United States.

"In war, each side has the right to look for weapons wherever it can and we will never give up that right," he added.

Regarding the U.S. request that those responsible for the downing of the helicopter be turned over to his country's courts, Saenz said this shows "an imperialist mentality which seeks to violate international law."

Peace in El Salvador is essential to attain peace in Central America, the FMLN spokesman said in conclusion.

FMLN Leader Discusses Implications of Incident

PA1001212691 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Interview with Commander German Serrano, member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) Political and Military Directorate, by an unidentified reporter in northern Chalatenango on 8 January—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Good evening, listeners of Radio Farabundo Marti. We have an interview for you. On 2 January our rebel units downed a military helicopter that was carrying military personnel in an area under the FMLN's control. As our people know, during that action three U.S. Army soldiers, including a lieutenant colonel, lost their lives. This incident has prompted various reports and statements. We would like to discuss this topic with Comrade Commander German Serrano of the FMLN's Modesto Ramirez Central Front.

Commander Serrano, how does the FMLN view this incident?

[Serrano] Regarding the downing of the helicopter and the deaths of three North Americans, the FMLN considers the operation to be entirely defensive, and considers the downing of the helicopter as a perfectly legitimate action. This aircraft was flying at a very low altitude, a few meters above the ground, very close to the Pan American Highway. It was overflying a military base of the National Army for Democracy and this is known by all the Salvadoran people and by the local and foreign press. This fact is easily discernible because of the fierce firefights that have taken place with the undemocratic army. Consequently, we view this as a defensive action and the downing of the aircraft as a perfectly legitimate action.

Following the downing of the aircraft, the Cristiani government and the U.S. State Department released different versions of the incident. The FMLN has released a clear message which explicitly states its position regarding all these versions and makes a firm commitment to investigate the facts. In the communique that was released yesterday, it is clearly explained that the comrades were provisionally detained so as to conduct a detailed investigation. Naturally, the FMLN is not going to allow impunity in the ranks of the National Army for Democracy. In any event, once the facts have been confirmed, if the action does not fall within the FLMN's norms of justice in wartime [normas de justicia de guerra del FMLN] the FMLN will proceed with all the rigor of the war norms that it upholds.

We do not believe in the justice that is currently exercised by the Salvadoran Government. That justice has never favored the people; it has always favored impunity and members of the death squads, and basically it has responded to the interests of the powerful men of this country. We are going to abide by the norms of justice that we are fighting for, that we are carrying out a national liberation process for, and consequently the comrades that have been detained are going to be judged according to our norms. We are not going to turn them over to a bourgeois judicial system, to a system of justice that does not correspond to the Salvadoran people's aspirations.

We are going to clearly inform all our people about the decisions we will make regarding these comrades if it is proven that they did not behave according to our norms of revolutionary justice.

[Reporter] Commander, as announced by U.S. Government spokesmen, one of the possible results of this incident might be a request for the release of previously suspended military aid to the Salvadoran Government, to the Cristiani administration. I would like to ask you how the FMLN views the possibility of this military aid being reinstated, or, in other words, unlifting the freeze that had been placed on it in October or November.

[Serrano] I believe that to release the aid that had been frozen would be to encourage the murderers of the Jesuits, the murderers of so many Salvadorans, and to further escalate the war that is being waged in our country. It also would be in great contrast with the negotiations process that is under way, and which is the only path to a political solution to the conflict. Of course this request for the U.S. Government to grant the military aid to the Salvadoran Army would be based on an incident that is not yet entirely clear, while on the other hand, these gentlemen have committed a large number of crimes. To name a few: The case of Monsignor Romero, the case of the Jesuits, the case of Hector Oqueli Colindres, the massacre of Mozontes, the massacre of San Sebastian, of (Huancurita), the massacre of (Diorica), the massacre of (Taspoja), and a number of other murders. In all of these cases no one has bothered to find out who the murderers are. As in the case of the Jesuits, all that has resulted is a propaganda campaign which has not resulted in anything.

Today, for example, two of the prosecutors who were in charge of the affair resigned; they are resigning under pressure from the government, the army, and the death squads so that no one can get to the bottom of the Jesuit problem. I believe that this must be taken into account by the entire nation and that pressure should be exerted because they are trying to link this murder to an isolated incident, to an incident that was the result of self-defense, a legitimate incident such as that of the downing of the helicopter.

We are investigating this incident, but find it necessary to ask a question. These murderers that have participated in several murders, who is judging them? Up until now the Salvadoran Government has been covering

them up, defending them, and preparing great propaganda ploys to defend them. As a matter of fact, the U.S. Government should contribute to an in-depth investigation into the problem of the murderers of so many Salvadorans and of the Jesuits.

Other questions abound in the case at hand. If it was a U.S. helicopter and it was transporting U.S. personnel, then it is inexplicable for U.S. personnel to be overflying areas under FMLN control at such low altitudes. This is a matter that we still have not been able to understand. One would have to know what their intentions were and what these military personnel were doing in that area under FMLN control. What we have, practically, is direct participation of U.S. advisers and U.S. military personnel in the Salvadoran war that is currently being waged.

[Reporter] Commander, we would like to ask you what specific interests are moving the Cristiani Government and the Armed Forces to give the downing of the helicopter and the death of the three U.S. servicemen such vast press and propaganda coverage both locally and internationally?

[Serrano] I believe that they are trying to set up a smokescreen to cover up or try to patch up appearances. Remember that beginning in November and December, the army and the government suffered a number of military defeats on the various FMLN war fronts. They are trying to cover up their weakness and their lack of political and military capacity by blowing this case into gigantic proportions. This is not going to help them, however, because it will not improve their weakness or the military capacity of their troops.

They are launching a propaganda blitz against the FMLN to try to cover up a defeat that is obvious to the people and to the local and international press. We believe that those gentlemen are trying to cover up their defeat and the problems they have at the government and armed forces level. They are also trying to raise their troops' morale. In sum, this coverup effort is an attempt to focus attention on some things that are not of a priority nature and which, at this very moment, are not important.

In that sense we believe that the people must remain alert and should view the facts just as they are. They have committed different crimes and have never bothered to make such a hullaballoo as they are making today. They are exaggerating the issue, as if this were something that had never occurred in this country before, while it is they who have committed all the crimes against our people. They are trying to take advantage of this situation to make several maneuvers to try to convince the different sectors of our society that what they are saying is the truth.

The FMLN is going to prove that every time we have done something that is not correct we have admitted it. We are going to act with complete clarity for our people.

[Reporter] Thank you very much Comrade Commander German Serrano for this interview for Radio Farabundo Marti. We invite our listeners to stay tuned for more news.

Radio Venceremos Defends FMLN Record on POW's

PA1001201891 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] [Broadcast in progress] ...and respect to prisoners of war. During these 10 years, the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] policies have been clear regarding prisoners of war, and clear regarding the Geneva Convention. More than 2,000 soldiers and officers captured during combat are witnesses to our respect for human rights. When Deputy Defense Minister Colonel Castillo's helicopter was downed in 1981, his life and moral integrity was respected. The same respect was offered to Captains Flores, Hidalgo, and dozens of lieutenants who were captured and handed over to the International Red Cross Committee. We also wish to recall the respect offered to Colonel Avalos as a prisoner of war. In fact, during combat, we even captured the Junquillo butcher, Captain Medina Garay, a psychopathic killer of peasant children and women. Despite this, our fighters never struck him, never tried to torture him. Afterward, this criminal was turned over to the International Red Cross Committee. Executing prisoners of war is not an FMLN policy. As long as these priciples prevail, our revolutionary justice will serve as our norm for trials.

Elements of the antidemocratic Armed Forces coldbloodedly gunned down Msgr. Romero. Colonels and officers were the ones who murdered 17 priests in cold blood. Those who raped and cold-bloodedly murdered four American nuns were elements of the antidemocratic Armed Forces. Those who killed U.S. technicians at the Sheraton Hotel were captains and lieutenants, acting under orders from colonels of the antidemocratic Armed Forces. Colonels and generals belonging to the antidemocratic Armed Forces were the ones who coldbloodedly murdered six Jesuit priests. Ten year have elapsed, and not a single officer has ever been punished for these crimes that total thousands.

Our fighters know that the moral principles of all revolutionaries come before anything else; that never shall our weapons be used to dishonor the noble cause for which we fight for, otherwise, we would resemble the general staff monsters who have bloodied El Salvador. The purity of our principles and the straightforwardness of our actions have earned us the world's admiration. We swear, by the blood of our martyrs, to uphold these principles, whatever the price.

Intercept Said To Link FMLN Leaders, Atrocity

PA1101031891 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 10 Jan 91 p 2

[Text] San Miguel—The Military Intelligence in this city has reported that according to communications intercepted by the Army, high-ranking leaders of the FMLN-FDR [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front - Revolutionary Democratic Front] were consulted "about the procedures to be followed" regarding the three U.S. servicemen murdered after the downing of their helicopter in Lolotique last week.

The source said the Armed Forces High Command already has in its possession the tapes of the communication among the seven terrorists who downed the helicopter.

The terrorists, Military Intelligence added, asked for instructions "from their commanders" on "the procedures to be followed when the bird had already fallen" in the area of San Francisco canton in the jurisdiction of Lolotique.

A local peasant later stated that he heard one of the individuals, who was armed with a rifle—apparently an AK-47—say that "the lives of the wounded had to be respected." When the peasant returned, however, to give the wounded the water they had requested, they had already been shot. "This shows that the subversives changed their minds after making the consultations," Military Intelligence stated.

The source said that the FMLN "command" could even be involved in this case because the individual who ordered that they be killed said that his word was that "of the bosses [masuchos]."

The individuals who are mentioned by their noms de guerre and who participated in what from the beginning they called an "execution," include "Dominguez," who is said to have given the order for the action; "Aparicio;" and "Portillo," who is said to be one of those who fired the "coup de grace" when the already wounded men were still moving.

"If a paraffin test were given to this individual or if a ballistic test were made, the truth of what we are stating would be proven," the source said.

It has also been learned here that some FMLN deserters are helping by providing valuable information to identify the individuals who operate in the region.

Regarding the FMLN announcement on 9 January that "they are holding two individuals for investigation in this case," the military source said that such an action lacks legal and moral grounds because no group that acts outside the law can assume the right to judge others. If it did so, it would be committing one more crime.

"Moreover, the leftist groups, in an attempt to erase their crime, could well execute—as they term it—two low level subversives and then announce with a lot of ballyhoo that they have executed the killers of the U.S. citizens," the source warned.

It has also been reported that in view of the requests for protection from the peasants of San Francisco canton who have received threats from the FMLN, efforts are being made to protect not only them but their relatives and property.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court of Justice on 9 January reported that the Attorney General's Office has appointed a specific official to the case and that Chinameca Lower Court Judge Dinora del Carmen Andrade de Lazo has summoned several witnesses so they can expand their statements on the case.

The Chinameca court has already received the results of the initial investigations undertaken by the offices of the San Miguel justice of the peace and the Lolotique justice of the peace, which have been compiled in a single file.

Rebels Shoot Down Helicopter, Injure 2 Crewmen

PA1001194591 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1730 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Military sources confirmed to this station this morning that guerrillas today shot down by rifle fire an armed UH-1H helicopter over Milingo, Suchitoto, Cuscatlan. According to the sources, two crewmen were injured and taken to a hospital. They are out of danger.

It has been reported that the helicopter was shot down while conducting ground support for members of the 1st Infantry Brigade and the Ramon Belloso Battalion, who have been fighting rebels in the area since early this morning.

Honduras

Callejas Reacts to 'Failed' Baker-'Aziz Meeting

PA1001171791 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas reacted immediately when he learned that the negotiations between the United States and Iraq had failed.

These were his statements:

[Begin recording] [Callejas] I am very worried, because the impression one gets from the information released during the news conferences held by the foreign ministers of the United States and Iraq indicates that the dialogue was not successful and that, consequently, the use of force in the Persian Gulf conflict is pending action in accordance with the UN resolution which fixes 15 January as the deadline.

[Unidentified reporter] As the situation evolves, the people and the government are worried. Have you drawn out the policies to be followed in the case of a conflict

breaking out in the Persian Gulf? We had spoken earlier about austerity measures for fuel.

[Callejas] Of course. In our specific case, the worry for the fuel supply should not be on the minds of the Honduran people because, foreseeing this situation, we have crude and refined fuel supplies for at least three weeks after 15 January.

As a matter of fact, the fuel and petroleum inventory is the biggest in the country's history. The complication is not in that sense, but in the effect that the conflict could have, depending on when it takes place and how long it lasts. It is not simple because the economic implications are very grave.

What I can indeed tell the Honduran people is that we have enough fuel to last three weeks, and we can thus avoid the impact—which would be grave—of a likely increase in the price of oil. Today the price of petroleum increased $4. As we come closer to 15 January, the uncertainty and [word indistinct] will doubtlessly cause expectations of an increase in the price.

In our case, I reiterate, we foresaw the situation and acquired another shipment, which is already on its way and will arrive in the next few days. Therefore, we can rest assured that the country will have a fuel supply and that the prices will be normal.

This does not preclude the possibility of having to regulate the supply to national consumers, according to certain priorities. We must remember that if this situation lasts very long the effect will be disastrous. In that sense, I want to be very frank. If the conflict lasts long, the economic effects for the world will disastrous. [end recording]

Nicaragua

Chamorro Institutes Cabinet Reshuffle

PA1001191091 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1719 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro reorganized her government today by appointing 11 ministers who "fully" support her administration. Most of the ministers, however, were confirmed in their posts.

In a ceremony held at the presidential building, which Vice President Virgilio Godoy did not attend although he was invited, Chamorro announced that Humberto Belli is the new minister of education. He replaces Sofonias Cisneros.

Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, the archbishop of Managua, was also absent because he was out of the country, Bishop Bosco Vivas, who represented Obando at the ceremony, reported.

The announcement of this, the second reorganization of the cabinet since Chamorro was sworn in as president on 25 April, coincided with the 13th anniversary of the assassination of her husband, the anti-Somozist journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro Cardenal.

Today also marks the beginning of the new six-year constitutional term of the Chamorro government by virtue of the transition accords signed on 27 March between the new administration that resulted from the 25 February elections and leaders of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, the leading opposition party.

Presidential Minister Antonio Lacayo, who was confirmed in his post, told the papers on the day prior to the cabinet's reorganization that the officials who were incorporated into the government today "fully" support Chamorro's policy of reconciliation, permanent agreement, dialogue, and negotiation.

It was conspicuous that Chamorro relieved former contra leader Roberto Ferrey from the post of president of the Nicaraguan Institute for Repatriation, and appointed Jaime Cuadra Somarriba in his place.

Other appointments which political circles have started to comment on are the appointment of Oscar Sovalbarro Garcia, ex-military leader of the now defunct Nicaraguan Resistance, as deputy director of the Nicaraguan Institute for Repatriation, and that of Boanerges "Pepe" Matus, also an ex-contra leader, as deputy agrarian reform director.

Chamorro announced the creation of the National Technological Institute [Inatec], which will be in charge of training Nicaraguan youths in several technical fields. Sofonias Cisneros, previously the minister of education, was appointed director of Inatec.

In addition, the president appointed Noel Vidaurre deputy minister for economy and development. Vidaurre had been deputy minister for external cooperation.

Foreign Minister Enrique Dreyfus, Finance Minister Emilio Pereira, Agriculture and Livestock Minister Roberto Rondon Sacasa, Economy and Development Minister Silvio de Franco, Construction and Transport Minister Jaime Icabalceta, Health Minister Ernesto Salmeron, Labor Minister Francisco Rosales, and External Cooperation Minister Erwin Kruger were confirmed in their posts.

Cabinet Members Announced

PA1101000091

[Editorial Report] Managua Domestic Service in Spanish at 1517 GMT on 10 January begins broadcasting live from the Government House in Managua. An unidentified master of ceremonies announces a national radio and television network of "the first session of the presidential period 1991-97 according to the Constitution."

After one minute of silence is observed on behalf of "the 13th anniversary of the death of Pedro Joaquin

Chamorro, martyr of public liberties," President Violeta Chamorro opens the session with a brief speech.

The master of ceremonies then says that as the next point in the agenda, "the newly appointed government officials will be asked to come forward." They are called one by one, and the decrees appointing new cabinet members are read. The following names are announced:

Humberto Belli Pereira, minister of education;
Noel Vidaurre Arguello, deputy minister of economy and development;
Pablo Pereira Gallardo, deputy minister of economy and development;
Jaime Cuadra Somarriba, director of the Nicaraguan Repatriation Institute;
Oscar Sobalvarro Garcia, deputy director of the Nicaraguan Repatriation Institute;
Alfredo Mendieta Artola, provisional director of the Nicaraguan Institute of Municipal Development (Infom);
Boanerges Matus Lasso, deputy director of the Nicaraguan Agrarian Reform Institute;
Jose Felix Solis Contreras, vice president of the Central Bank of Nicaragua;
Maria Francis Blandon Somarriba, deputy attorney general;
Carlos Noguera Pastora, executive director of the Emergency Social Investment Fund (FISE);
Sofonias Cisneros Leiva, director of the National Technological Institute (Inatec).

The ceremony continues with President Chamorro swearing in the new cabinet members.

After that, Msgr. Bosco Vivas, representing Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, who is currently abroad, makes a religious invocation.

At 1539 GMT the master of ceremonies says that President Chamorro, accompanied by the members of her cabinet, will go to the National Assembly, to deliver a speech. The session ends with the national anthem.

Humberto Ortega Administers Army Loyalty Oath

PA1001191191 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1720 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Speech by Defense Minister Humberto Ortega at Armed Forces loyalty ceremony at the Nonaligned Plaza in Managua—live]

[Excerpts] We, the members of the Armed Forces, are embued with our people's fighting spirit, and with the Central American unity that made possible the defeat of the Yankee fillibusters in the national war headed heroically by General Jose Dolores Estrada, Andres Castro, Emanuel Mongalo, and other worthy sons of Nicaragua. [passage omitted]

In the presence of the president of the Republic, supreme commander of the nation's defense and security forces, and other government officials, before our sacred blue and white flag, before Nicaragua's Constitution, which was created by the fatherland, before the revolution, and before the nation's unity and peace, we hereby swear to protect, respect, and obey the Republic's constitution and laws. We swear loyalty and obedience to the president of the Republic. We swear to continue being zealous and loyal defenders of the independence, self-determination, sovereignty and territorial integrity of our beloved fatherland. We swear to continue to be ever watchful of the compliance with the nation's institutional order to strengthen the peace and stability of all Nicaraguans.

Comments on Missile Scandal

PA1101011991 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0011 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Managua, 10 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Nicaraguan Army Commander Humberto Ortega has described as "extremists" the Salvadoran guerrillas who recently murdered two U.S. citizens in El Salvador.

"That group (of Salvadorans) acted in an extremist manner, compromising the official policy of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN)," he added.

After swearing "loyalty and allegiance" to President Violeta Chamorro's government, Ortega said that the Soviet Union knows that the case of the missiles was the result of "liberalism, outside the control of the Army's official policy."

He said that "the FMLN must accept its responsibilities because it was a lack of consideration and honor to steal from the Army of a country that has provided extensive solidarity."

He stated that the missiles in question were supplied by the Soviet Union in February 1986. He said that the Soviet Union "did not set any political conditions; it only told us that the arms should not be transferred, without its authorization, to third countries or parties."

Ortega said: "When weapons are bought, one can do what one pleases with them, but when they are donated, one must be respectful of the agreements."

A total of 28 SAM-7 and SAM-14 missiles were turned over to the FMLN by four Nicaraguan Army members in October.

Ortega said that guerrilla commander Joaquin Villalobos is being investigated after he was mentioned by one of the four service members involved in the removal of the weapons. "We must put our house in order," Ortega added.

Daniel Ortega Comments on Eve of Baghdad Visit

PA1101024791 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 10 Jan 91 pp 1, 5

[Report by special envoy Sergio De Castro]

[Excerpts] Amman—After he learned that the meeting between Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had failed, former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said that the war seemed inevitable but that the peace efforts had to be intensified prior to and after 15 January.

'Aziz and Baker met for six hours in Geneva, Switzerland on 9 January. They did not reach an agreement on the Persian Gulf crisis.

Ortega asserted that 15 January—the date set by the Security Council for Iraqi troop withdrawal from Kuwait—is not an irrevocable dateline that will destroy the efforts made in favor of a negotiated solution to the crisis. The world cannot become a hostage to war, he said.

The former president met with Prince Hassan of Jordan on 9 January. Ortega delayed his trip to Baghdad 24 hours so that he could meet with several political figures from different countries and hold a second meeting with the heir to the Jordan crown.

The Sandinist leader should leave for Baghdad today to meet with President Saddam Husayn. He decided, however, to hold another meeting with Prince Hassan and other international figures due to the seriousness of the crisis.

Ortega described UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's visit to Iraq as positive and said that if he acts with flexibility, he could contribute to an opening in the negotiating process.

During his short visit to New York last Monday, Ortega met with Perez de Cuellar to inform him about the peace efforts he is making in the Middle East.

Zehei Terzi, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and former PLO ambassador to the United Nations, said here that the secretary general of the United Nations should immediately assume responsibility in view of the threat to peace and world security.

In exclusive statements to BARRICADA, Terzi said that Perez de Cuellar "should hold meetings with President Husayn as soon as possible and inform the Security Council about his meetings with both presidents."

Last weekend, Perez de Cuellar met with U.S. President George Bush to learn about the U.S. options in the Persian Gulf crisis first hand.

On Monday, during a meeting with Ortega, he announced his decision to immediately travel to Iraq if the meeting between Baker and 'Aziz failed.

Terzi criticized the U.S. Government for attempting to represent the Security Council and the countries that form the so-called multinational force that is currently in the Persian Gulf. The Security Council's resolutions do not give the United States the right to speak in its name, said 'Arafat's political adviser.

On this topic, he said that despite Baker's efforts to present the problem as a conflict between Iraq and the international community, the 9 January meeting in Geneva clearly determined that the two main figures in this conflict are the Governments of Iraq and the United States.

Terzi also rejected the accusation that Iraq is using the Palestinian problem as a shield. He said that Iraq, together with the Arab people, have taken it upon themselves to defend the Palestinian cause. [passage omitted]

Ortega, accompanied by Palestinian National Council member 'Ata al-Wahidi, visited a camp of more than 70,000 Palestinian refugees in Amman on 9 Janaury. He toured the camp and visited some of the houses. The camp and six similar camps have been in operation in Jordan since 1987. They are financed by the United Nations and other non-government organizations from different countries and have the support of the Jordanian Government.

'Official Sources' Acknowledge Soviet Shipment

PA1101025191 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0031 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Managua, 10 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Official sources admitted today that the Soviet military equipment that arrived at a Nicaraguan Pacific port this week and caused alarm among the population belongs to the Sandinist People's Army (EPS).

The Managua daily LA PRENSA, citing Soviet Ambassador Evgueny Astajov and General Joaquin Cuadra, commander of the EPS General Staff reported that the shipment, whose destination is unknown, is for the Nicaraguan Army.

Both Ambassador Astajov and Gen. Cuadra said that "the strange shipment of armored vehicles," as the daily described the shipment, arrived at the Port of Corinto as part of agreements signed between Nicaragua and the USSR under the Sandinist administration.

Ambassador Astajov said that the shipment consists of radio communications equipment installed in a combat vehicle which carries no weapons. He added that this was the last military shipment that his country has sent to Nicaragua.

Meanwhile, Gen. Cuadra confirmed that the Sandinist Government and Soviet authorities agreed to cancel all previous military agreements, since if such shipments continued in 1990, Nicaragua would have to pay for them.

Government Policies Cause Some Contras To Rearm

PA1101004391 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 8 Jan 91 pp 1, 8

[Report by Luis Valverde]

[Text] Waslala—Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] leader Israel Galeano, a.k.a. Commander Franklyn, confirmed here that members of the anti-Sandinist forces who had put down their weapons, are desperate because of their extreme misery and have rearmed themselves and gone to the jungle near Wiwili and El Cua.

Galeano did not mention the number of men who have taken up the still smoking rifles they supposedly had cached. He said, however: "Today there may be four, tomorrow 10, and after some time every one of them will do the same if their needs are not met."

At the end of a heated debate with close to 300 former RN members, Galeano made an urgent appeal to the government to fulfill its promise of land and loans to 1,600 former rebels who are threatening to take up arms again if their needs are not met.

The meeting, held on Sunday at Hacienda El Naranjo, 35 km north of Waslala, was also attended by government delegate Jose Rizo, local mayor Juan Valdivia, and UNAG [National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen] president Daniel Nunez.

In the presence of "Franklyn" and the Waslala authorities, the demobilized contras loudly protested the government's failure to fulfill its promises. They also said that many former contras have rearmed themselves and taken to the mountains. "Commander, we are starving and have many diseases" a former combatant, who identified himself as "Saul," said in a discouraging voice. Another angrily accused "Franklyn" of "forgetting about us."

After listening to the dramatic stories, Galeano urged the government to start immediately the construction of the 40 km road to Wina and Las Nubes so that the Agrarian Reform Commission can begin distributing more than 20,000 manzanas of land located in these two places. Galeano said: "The government had pledged to build those roads. Now we want tractors to start working." He warned that, if the work is delayed any longer, an armed conflict will break out in the fields again.

Nunez said that the government, instead of thinking about privatization, should try to resolve the problems of the demobilized contras. "The properties that the government is planning to sell could be used to meet the peasants' demands." He said that the government has overlooked the serious food, health, land, and financial problems of the demobilized contras, who virtually brought the government to power.

The demobilized contras reported that a vast expanse of land they had prepared for planting potatoes have become wild with weeds again because neither the government nor the bank have made any financial arrangements so that the former contras can acquire the 1,500 quintals of seed they required.

Some 10 heads of Sandinist cooperatives participated in the assembly. In addition to backing the demands of the demobilized contras, they said that they even surrendered the weapons they had been authorized to own because they need social stability in order to work in peace. This assertion was confirmed by Jose Rizo, the government delegate to Waslala, who said that the peasants in the area have been putting aside their political differences because they do not want any more war.

Waslala mayor Valdivia said that, so far, the Agrarian Reform Commission has distributed lands to 300 demobilized contras only but that these people are not doing anything because the bank is not lending them any money. Valdivia said that about 20,000 manzanas of land are available near Wina and Las Nubes but that he has not delivered this land because the central government has not bothered to open the necessary 40 kms of secondary roads.

The mayor of Waslala said: "We would gain nothing by telling the demobilized contras that the lands are available. There are no roads or money to finance the work on the land." He added that he is strongly pressured by the peasants.

"Franklyn," of peasant origin, has reported to the demobilized contras that the Agrarian Commission, of which he is a member, has negotiated and will continue to negotiate with the government for the latter to comply with the 13 points that led to the contras' disarming and demobilization.

He announced that the Agrarian Reform Commission will meet with the government today to demand the immediate construction of the roads to Wina and Las Nubes and financing to work the land.

"I cannot understand why there was so much money to wage war and now, when we want to consolidate peace and development, the government says there is no money," "Franklyn" said scornfully.

Weapons Discovery in Matagalpa Results in Arrest

PA1001192491 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] A large number of weapons was found at the (Huajuali) Abajo ranch belonging to Ramiro (Griches).

[Begin recording of Frank Cesar, public relations director of the Government Ministry, in progress] ...100 sacks of Soviet-made explosives, 126 cartridges for 82-mm mortar grenades, 345 gunpowder charges for long distance loads for 82-mm grenades, 86 security fuses for 82-mm grenades, 121 powder charges for RPG-7 rocket launchers, and 60 fuses for hand grenades.

At this time, there is one person under arrest. His name is Fernando Rodriguez, and we are looking for another person who is allegedly responsible for the arsenal we found at this ranch. [end recording]

The arsenal was uncovered on 6 January. Government Delegate Jaime Cuadra and the area's disarmament commission, together with the police, verified and seized the weapons.

[Begin Cuadra recording] The Government Ministry thanks the citizens and invites them to continue to help us in this plan to disarm the civilian population by denouncing the places where there may be arsenals, or persons who may still have war materiel, in order to achieve the total disarmament of the civilian population. [end recording]

Panama

Linares Comments on Meeting With Congressmen

PA1001134991 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Jan 91

[News conference by Foreign Minister Julio Linares with unidentified reporters in Panama City on 9 January—recorded]

[Text] [Linares] I think the U.S. congressmen's visit to our country was very positive, because they expressed their thoughts about issues that are important not only to them, but to us as well, such as that related to drug trafficking and money laundering. At the same time, they gave us the opportunity to present our way of thinking on these same issues, especially because there is the mistaken belief among U.S. congressmen that Panama is delaying or stalling the signing of a Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement because we are not very interested in cracking down on drug trafficking or money laundering, when this is absolutely false.

If the agreement were limited to drug trafficking and money laundering alone, we would already have signed it. We have to be more careful with other crimes that the United States would like to have as part of the legal assistance, and which have nothing to do with drug trafficking or money laundering and furthermore are not even a crime in Panama and could affect our financial center. We must be careful on this.

[Reporter] What would happen if Panama does not agree with many of the points presented by the United States?

[Linares] I think that we are going to come to an understanding, but, obviously, if we do not come to an understanding, then the treaty will not be signed.

[Reporter] What would the consequences be if there is no agreement?

[Linares] That is a hypothetical situation, and I never like talking about hypothetical situations.

Endara Denies Pressure on MLAA

PA1001175091 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 10 Jan 91 p 1

[Report by James Aparicio]

[Text] Panamanian President Guillermo Endara announced yesterday that Panama will sign a mutual legal assistance agreement [MLAA] with the United States to fight crimes related to drug traffic, but one "that does not harm Panama."

Endara regretted that the U.S. congressmen, members of a delegation headed by Democrat Charles Rangel, stated they were "disappointed because drug traffic toward the United States continues despite the new government. [no closing quotation marks as published]

"I am very sorry if they feel disappointed, but Panama must defend its interests," said the president.

Endara denied there was U.S. pressure to sign the agreement, which would permit the investigation of the almost 300,000 corporations that operate within the country. This permission has provoked rejection from business and legal groups.

"We will have a treaty, but one that does not harm Panama," said Endara. He also denied having any disagreements with First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon, whom he called "a brother."

The MLAA has been in the process of negotiation since March, and the disbursement of approximately $84 million in U.S. foreign aid depends on its signing.

An agreement regarding U.S. boats patrolling Panamanian waters and a secret treaty regarding modifications to the law on banking secrecy. [sentence as published]

Argentina

Congress To Decide Gulf Participation Next Week

PY1101133091 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1211 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Jan (TELAM)—President Carlos Menem will call Congress to an urgent session next week to make a final decision on the participation of Argentine vessels in the Persian Gulf crisis.

Menem reiterated that the Argentine ships in the Gulf will not engage in combat actions but in providing logistic support to the troops of those countries which, if war breaks out, will engage in combat.

Hercules Plane To Depart for Persian Gulf

PY1001192191 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] An Argentine Air Force C-130 Hercules Plane will depart for the Persian Gulf at 2000 tonight. The plane will take a replacement helicopter for the destroyer Admiral Brown and will evacuate the Argentine citizens living in the Middle East.

According to a high-ranking military source, the plane will depart from the 1st Air Brigade Base in El Palomar, where the Hercules squadron is based, and will stopover in Pisa, Italy, at a military base before continuing to Saudi Arabia where it will unload spare parts that are needed by the Argentine ships operating in the Gulf of Oman near the Strait of Hormuz. The Argentine ships are participating in the economic blockade and embargo against Iraq.

The Hercules will take a Navy Alouette helicopter to replace the one involved in an accident some months ago during maneuvers on board the destroyer Admiral Brown.

The Kuwaiti Government in exile has deposited $18 million to finance the trip of the Argentine ships Admiral Brown and Spyro which are participating in the embargo against Iraq. The Defense Ministry report does not say where or when the deposit was made, but officials speculate that the money could have been deposited at a branch of the Argentine National Bank in London. The food and fuel needed for the trip has been financed, in some cases, by the governments of countries participating in the blockade.

Alleged Corruption, Swift-Armour Case Reported

Minister: Company Surprised at Rumors

PY1001180591 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2147 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 9 Jan (TELAM)—Economy Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez said this afternoon that the Swift-Armour Company has never presented any charge to the U.S. Embassy. He added that the company managers were extremely surprised at the reports published in the press.

After meeting with President Menem and businessmen Carlos Oliva Funes and Juan Cambiasso at the Government House for half an hour, Minister Gonzalez thus referred to the alleged corruption charges against that company.

Gonzalez confirmed that today the Swift-Armour directors will release a press communique to clarify the situation. He also denied that there has been any pressure. He said that this is why he invited the U.S. ambassador to take part in today's news conference at 1200.

The minister insisted that the managers have not made any charges and added that they confirmed that no government official or company member has ever pressed them (?to receive) bribes.

Asked if such situation has ever occurred, Gonzalez said that this has never occurred, there has never been any pressure, and that no one has ever asked for bribes. [passage omitted]

Gonzalez Explains Corruption Case

PY1001184391 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1218 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Jan (NA)—Economy Minister Erman Gonzalez has denied that U.S. Ambassador Terence Todman's letter mentioned Emir Yoma or any other Economy Ministry official. Gonzalez said that he asked both the U.S. Embassy and the Swift-Armour company, in writing, for the names of the people involved in the much talked-about case.

"We are holding talks at an important and serious official level. To avoid any doubts I wanted it to be made public, in writing, and with the appropriate signature," Gonzalez said.

The minister said that the inquiry began immediately after they received Todman's letter on 17 December, but added that the Swift-Armor case had been resolved by then.

Gonzalez denied that current Presidential Adviser Emir Yoma had anything to do with the Economy Ministry, adding: "Todman has said all along that he was not talking about the Economy Ministry or its officials, that the problem was outside the ministry."

Gonzalez said that Argentine authorities were "seeking the truth very seriously, without hiding anything." Gonzalez deplored the situation, however, because "once a calumny is let loose it is difficult to eradicate."

Menem: U.S. Relations 'Normal'

PY1001182591 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1746 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Jan (NA)—President Carlos Menem today reiterated that relations between Argentina and the United States "are on a normal course." He noted, however, that U.S. Ambassador Terence Todman has been asked to explain the incident involving the Swift-Armour Company.

Menem made these remarks at noon today at the Colombian Embassy, which is located in the Palermo district.

Menem denied reports that he is planning to pardon Norberto Imbelloni, a former Justicialist deputy. Menem said: "If he is set free, it will be through a court decision, not by a presidential decision."

Menem Deems U.S. Charges 'Clumsy'

PY1101131891 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1140 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Jan (NA)—President Carlos Menem has described the U.S. State Department charges of alleged cases of corruption within the Argentine Government, which are affecting U.S. companies, as "some sort of hasty move that cannot be justified."

In remarks to Radio America, Menem said things were presented "in a clumsy way, with some sort of hasty move that cannot be justified, let alone within the U.S. State Department, where there have been truly outrageous cases of corruption."

Upon announcing that he had signed a decree ordering Prosecutor Mayorano to conduct a court investigation into the Swift-Armour case and others, Menem said: "The State Department is more concerned about what is happening in Argentina rather than what is happening in the United States."

Cavallo: Relations Being Undermined

PY1101141891 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1205 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Jan (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo said today that, in his opinion, the report on U.S. Ambassador Terence Todman's letter was leaked by Argentine Government officials who had access to it and who are trying to undermine relations between the two countries. Cavallo noted, however, that "they will not succeed."

Upon arriving at the Olivos residence to attend a cabinet meeting, Cavallo said that there are biased interests at stake. He added: I believe the report was disseminated to undermine Argentine- U.S. relations, which are and will continue to be excellent.

After noting that he could not provide further details on exactly who leaked the report, Cavallo reaffirmed his confidence that the Bush initiative will be successful and emphasized the importance of making it possible for U.S. investment to develop.

Supposed Estonian Immigration Plans Viewed

PY1001213991 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Jan 91 p 6

[Unattributed editorial: "From Estonia to Argentina"]

[Text] According to the Soviet daily IZVESTIYA, Andres Kork, president of the Tallinn City Council, which is the capital of Estonia, announced that during his recent visit to Argentina he reportedly obtained the consent of our government to receive 150,000 immigrants from that Baltic republic which is currently struggling for its independence from Moscow.

There is, however, some contradiction is evident in the manner in which this information is being reported by IZVESTIYA and a morning daily in Tallinn. While IZVESTIYA comments that "the Argentine possibility is nothing more than a brilliant maneuver that seeks to evict the Russian-speaking inhabitants from Estonia," a Tallinn daily says that "it will be very difficult for the people who have their roots in Estonia to leave."

Although it is true that the Russian-speaking inhabitants, which make up more than 20 percent of the population, strongly oppose the independence-seeking movements, there is no reason to believe that IZVESTIYA's impulsive assumption is true.

However, beyond this aspect there are questions which closely concern us. The preamble of the national Constitution clearly defines the benign Argentine spirit that will welcome anyone who wants to live in Argentina without any restrictions.

This, however, does not obviate the need to establish firm immigration policies without violating the Constitution. Therefore, the government should report on the truth of these reports that are coming from the Soviet Union. To clarify doubts, it should also be disclosed where the 150,000 immigrants would settle and what they will do if there already exits a plan to help these people who come from a very different social and cultural environment and who, for the most part, do not speak Spanish. In other words: Can the country suddenly absorb such a massive and important influx?

No resistance is being suggested. We are only noting that Argentine officials should determine whether our country, which is currently enduring serious problems, can become home to a large number of foreigners. It would be ideal if the Estonians who seek their destiny and fortune in this land could settle here and benefit both themselves and the country which would welcome them the way it welcomed other foreigners in the past.

Bolivia

Vice President Welcomes U.S. Drug Case Verdict

PY1101021691 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Italicized passages recorded]

[Text] Vice President Luis Ossio Sanjines has stated that crime does not pay and sooner or later justice is served. Proof of this is the case of Luis Arce Gomez, who has been declared guilty of drug trafficking and is now only awaiting sentencing.

[Ossio Sanjines, in progress] *...world news that try to prevent the crime of drug trafficking and make people aware that crime does not pay and sooner or later, justice is served. I hope it is true justice and not a violation of the rights of even this person, who, having been accused of this crime, has the right (?to be listened to).*

After being sentenced in the United States, Arce Gomez will presumably be repatriated to Bolivia to serve a sentence for the crimes he committed in our country during the dictatorship of Luis Garcia Meza.

[Ossio Sanjines] *Well, Luis Arce Gomez is being tried in absentia. He is in contempt of court in accordance with Bolivian law, and this allows the possibility of continuing the trial and handing down a sentence. This is what is going to occur in the next few months in our country as soon as the judicial branch situation returns to normal. Once that sentence is handed down, Luis Arce Garcia will have a pending sentence in Bolivia, and we hope it will be carried out.*

[Unidentified reporter] *Will he have to be brought back to the country again?*

[Ossio Sanjines] *Of course. Once he completes his sentence in the United States, he will have to carry out his sentence in our country.*

The government considers as positive the quick trial of Luis Arce Gomez. Here are the words of Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena:

[Rueda Pena] *I believe that the jury, the jury's verdict is just.*

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Rueda Pena] *I believe that all the Bolivian people view that verdict with sympathy because we all know what type of activities Arce Gomez was linked to.*

Repercussions to the trial and the fact that a U.S. jury found Luis Arce Gomez guilty. [sentence as heard] On 22 March a judge will hand down a sentence that could run from 15 to 30 years.

Government Says COB Strike Partially Observed

PY1001194191 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] In face of opposite reactions to the COB [Bolivian Labor Federation] strike, Information Minister Mario Rueda Pena has evaluated the strike and concluded that it was a failure. He said that the strike was observed by only 60 percent of the unionized bus drivers while nonunionized drivers worked their normal schedules.

Minister Rueda said that the situation is returning to normal now that the street barricades are being lifted. These barricades helped to create an atmosphere of trouble yesterday. They would have not appeared if the bus drivers had not joined the strike.

[Begin Rueda recording] According to information that I have just received from the Labor Ministry, only 15 percent of the COB membership observed the strike. This means that 80 to 85 percent of the COB membership did not observe the strike. If we take into account this low—very low percentage of 15 percent—we can conclude that the strike was a categorical failure.

The Labor Ministry reported that 60 percent of the unionized bus drivers observed the strike. This means that 40 percent worked normally. Nonunionized bus drivers worked in all the districts of the country except in downtown La Paz where bus drivers on strike set up barricades. The situation has now returned to normal.

The situation in other sectors, like the financial system, private companies, public administration, energy, and Entel [National Telecommunications Enterprise], is completely normal. That is our final evaluation of the strike which has now ended.

Minister Reports Plans To Reduce Public Expenses

PY1101015691 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Statements by Presidency Minister Gustavo Fernandez Saavedra at news conference covering "the latest presidential instructions on the reduction of public expenses"; place and date not given—recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...in preparation of the national budget. We agreed on the need to approach the public expenditure and investment programs, which, as I said, were the government's main points of concern in the 1991 budget. If we are to effectively collect resources for an aggressive public investment policy to create jobs, it is evident that the revenue policy is of critical importance.

Based on these elements, the president decided to give priority to those two aspects. On 7 January, the president asked me to transcribe the presidential instruction you all know about. First, regarding ministries, three important measures were issued. First, there is the order to reduce at least 20 of the 57 existing undersecretariats in

different ministries. Although five undersecretariats were created during President Jaime Paz Zamora's administration, many undersecretariats—although I do not have the exact figures right now—were created during the former administration. In any case, it is evident that there is an excessive number of secretariats. It is obvious that a significant number of them should be reduced. If we created five, we are now eliminating at least 20 undersecretariats; either today or tomorrow, we will have a precise definition, I hope, of the undersecretariats that will be eliminated. That was the first instruction.

The second instruction was that in proportion with the reduction of undersecretariats, general directorates in each ministry must be reduced. It is not just a matter of reducing public expenses, which is one of the objectives, but there is a need to upgrade the public function of under secretaries and general directors as well as to rationalize public administration because we have found that several undersecretariats or general directorates are carrying out the same work.

The presidential instruction also establishes that the 1991 budget must take into account an additional five-percent reduction of the 1990 budget's regular expenses. This is important because the 1990 budget was about 20-percent smaller than initially planned. This means that if we add the two percentages, the total reduction of regular expenses in the 1991 budget will be over 25 percent. This is a significant reduction, which demonstrates the president's determination to implement a policy of austerity and to considerably reduce public expenses.

Finally, speaking of revenues—which is, as I have said, one of the main issues on the government agenda in 1991—the president thought it would be convenient if pertinent officials, especially those in the Finance Ministry, have all the authority they need to readjust the public revenue apparatus. Consequently, the president ordered that high-ranking officials in revenue and customs offices place the posts at the disposal of the finance minister.

Culture Cooperation Accord Signed With Germany

PY1101024291 La Paz Television Boliviana Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Summary] Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde and German Ambassador Herman Saumweber have signed a 100,000 Deutsche mark financial cooperation agreement for Bolivian culture. The money will go to the Bolivian Culture Institute, Phase Two; Pueblo Chico; and the (Gaquiariri) Church. The agreement was signed in the Bolivian Foreign Ministry today.

Brazil

Foreign Ministry Deactivates Embassy in Baghdad

PY1001164091 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] It was announced in Brasilia today that Itamaraty has ordered the deactivation of the Brazilian Embassy in Iraq. It was deemed prudent to deactivate the Brazilian Embassy, but Itamaraty explained that this action does not mean that Brazil has broken diplomatic relations with Iraq.

This was the first measure adopted by the recently established Gulf Crisis Advisory Group [Grupo de Acompanhamento Permanente da Crise]. The group, which is made up of experts in diplomacy and Middle Eastern affairs, will be in charge of issuing instructions if a war breaks out.

Another measure adopted by the group refers to the evacuation of Brazilians from the area. Itamaraty has received reports on the presence of some 3,000 Brazilians living near Tel Aviv, some of whom have dual citizenship; there are also 800 others who are already considered Palestinians. If a war breaks out, Tel Aviv will be the first Iraqi target. The Brazilian Embassy has been ordered to explain the risks involved with a possible armed conflict to Brazilian citizens.

Itamaraty is organizing the evacuation of some 10 people who work at the Brazilian Embassy in Baghdad, which is being deactivated, and their relatives.

[Begin Itamaraty Spokesman Pimentel da Veiga recording] Itamaraty advises all Brazilians who were planning to visit diplomatic missions or towns in the region not to do so. We also advise Brazilians who are temporarily visiting the region or working there to leave as soon as possible, in view of the risks to which they will be exposed. [end recording]

Government Sends Crisis Monitor to Gulf Region

PY1001232091 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 9 Jan 91 p A 11

[Roberto Lopes report]

[Text] Yesterday the Brazilian Government sent a high-ranking official to the Middle East to closely monitor expiration of the UN deadline for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to withdraw his troops from Kuwait. Antonio Amaral de Sampaio, head of the Foreign Ministry (Itamaraty) Near East Department (DEOP), left last night for Tunisia, via Paris.

In Itamaraty the night before last, when FOLHA approached Sampaio—regarded as Brazilian diplomacy's top expert on Middle East affairs—the usually witty, cordial official reacted with surprise and irritation. "Who told you I am going to Tunisia? It is not true. This is no time for travelling. Moreover, I am a member

of the promotions committee (Itamaraty promotions board). I cannot leave here now."

Sampaio was supposed to fly from Brasilia to Rio de Janeiro at 1830. In Rio he was scheduled to board Varig flight 722 for Paris. He was scheduled to arrive at Charles de Gaulle Airport, Paris, at 1320 (local time).

On 13 January—two days before the UN ultimatum expires—the Brazilian diplomat is scheduled to board Air France flight 2701, leaving Orly Airport for Tunis at 1430.

In the morning, Tunisian Ambassador to Brazil Zine El Abidine Mestiri disclosed that "the ambassador is going to discuss with our foreign minister the possibility of a peaceful, negotiated solution to the gulf crisis, which the two countries uphold." Mestiri confirmed Sampaio will meet with Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Boulares, probably on 14 January.

Marcos Azambuja, Itamaraty foreign policy secretary general, gave FOLHA exclusive information that his colleague Sampaio will meet with Algerian and Moroccan Government authorities. Azambuja added: "Moreover, the Arab League has an important office in Tunis. Sampaio will use this trip as an excellent observation post for the crisis in the Middle East." During Sampaio's absence, the DEOP will be headed by Rui Nogueira, Itamaraty press secretary during Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre's administration (1986-90). Nogueira stated that the special envoy "will tour the region (the Middle East)." Marcos Azambuja stated that "at first" he will not visit other countries besides Tunisia, but admitted that this program may be altered according to circumstances.

Two important decisions on the Arab world made by Itamaraty in late 1990—sending a new ambassador to Baghdad and replacing the current ambassador to Jordan—will only materialize in February. The new Brazilian ambassador to Iraq, Fernando Silva Alves, currently ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago and whose appointment was approved by Congress in December, was ordered to return to Port of Spain (the capital of Trinidad and Tobago) to await the appropriate moment to leave for Baghdad. Sampaio told FOLHA that "that will only happen in a month, or a month and a half."

The Brazilian ambassador to Amman (capital of Jordan), Felix Faria, who was appointed ambassador to Senegal on 19 December, will also only change posts in February. Should war break out in Kuwait, Itamaraty will have to make a series of important decisions in the next few days on the permanence of Brazilian diplomats and technicians who are still in Iraq safeguarding the assets of Brazilian enterprises that operated in that country and on the withdrawal of Brazilian citizens residing in high-risk countries such as Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

Bank Chief Evaluates Effect of Gulf War on Debt

PY1101010291 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Central Bank President Ibrahim Eris has stated that Brazil will probably have to review foreign debt negotiations if war breaks out in the Persian Gulf. Eris said that in the event of war, petroleum prices will go up and this will directly affect Brazil's balance of payments. All economic variables will also change. For this reason, the negotiations would have to be reviewed because the economic situation would be very different.

According to Eris, an increase in petroleum prices would have to be immediately transferred to fuel prices in Brazil. He added that the government is not in a position to shoulder the burden alone.

Eris does not believe the effects of a possible war in the Persian Gulf must be reflected in the inflation rate.

[Begin Eris recording] I do not see why the inflation rate must reflect the Persian Gulf crisis. This is simply an additional cost for the Brazilian economy and the economic agents must absorb it because the economy is based on people, individuals and corporations, and on the economic agents. This increase would surely represent another sacrifice for the Brazilian economy. [end recording]

The Central Bank president said this subject has not yet been considered by the government. Eris added that even if war breaks out in the Persian Gulf, the Brazilian Government will not change current economic policy. He explained that in the event of war, the Brazilian Government will maintain the current mechanisms for Brazilian monetary and fiscal policies.

Argentine Scientists To Inspect Nuclear Sites

PY1001214491 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Jan 91 p 21

[Rubens Santos report]

[Text] Brasilia—The Agreement on Safeguards in the nuclear sector signed between Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello and Argentine President Carlos Menem in November 1990 will yield its first result tomorrow. A group of Argentine scientists will land in Rio de Janeiro for an historic inspection of Brazilian nuclear installations, equipment, and all existing fissionable material. Brazilian scientists, in their turn, will go to Argentina on 14 January for a reciprocal inspection.

Through the Agreement on Safeguards, the two countries agreed to open their nuclear installations for mutual inspections. This is the method found by the two presidents to eradicate the distrust that exists between the two parties and to do away with the international suspicion that the two countries are developing technology to manufacture nuclear weapons such as the atomic bomb.

The agreement signed last year began long before then. The first rapprochement in this regard took place during

the government of General Joao Figueiredo in 1980. The first protocol for exchange in the nuclear sector between the two countries was consolidated during the government of Jose Sarney in 1987. The difference between previous actions, the protocol, and the current agreement is that Brazil and Argentina will carry out inspections of their respective installations, an important step toward a consolidation of safeguards—some sort of accounting of the stocks of fissionable material, equipment, and installations existing in the two countries.

A system of safeguards, a demand in the nuclear sector, was established throughout the world at the end of World War II. The United States and later, the Soviet Union and Great Britain expressed their concern about the need to establish international controls to guarantee nuclear development without the risk of weapons proliferation. As a result, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was created. This group organized a system to establish controls, which are called safeguards.

This objective, which is universal and does not discriminate, has lived through a long, painful experience. It was later split into other processes, such as the nuclear weapons Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), under the control of the industrialized countries, which are still disputing the arms race. The names and actions have been different over the past three decades. In the case of Latin America, the Tlatelolco Treaty signed in Mexico in 1967 was a document issued in such a manner as to prevent discrimination. Its overall application depends on ratification by other countries, such as France, which although not part of Latin America, has some jurisdiction in the region due to Guyana.

A third type of safeguards in the nuclear sector was tested between the end of the 1940's and the beginning of the 1950's with the so-called Bilateral Controls; however, these controls encountered tremendous difficulties during that period. According to assessments by nuclear experts, the new agreement between Brazil and Argentina abolishes all possibilities for distrust and discourages possible pretexts for nuclear proliferation in the Southern Cone.

Cuban Experts To Participate in Vaccine Project

PY1101115091 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Brazilian and Cuban experts will work together to develop a vaccine against dengue. Brazil and Cuba have held initial contacts to discuss the possibility of developing a vaccine to be used specifically against dengue.

Health Ministry Executive Secretary Luis Romero has said that the development of the vaccine will depend on more visits and possible agreements between the two countries.

Meanwhile, the Health Ministry has expressed its satisfaction with a Brazilian delegation's four-day visit to Cuba. During this visit the Brazilian Government managed to arrange a reduction of $30 million in the import price for meningitis type-B vaccine, as explained by Romero.

[Begin Romero recording] We think this visit was absolutely positive. We managed to achieve a substantial reduction in vaccine prices. We have achieved a reduction of $30 million, based on whether Brazil will need to import seven million doses of the vaccine. This will probably occur. We actually managed to reduce the price per dose to $1.50, which on a large scale represents more than half the debt of the Brazilian Lloyd company. [end recording]

According to Luis Romero, Brazilian experts in this sector will go to Cuba next week to hold talks on vaccines against dengue. Once the terms for a technical cooperation agreement are established, the dengue vaccine should be ready within two or three years.

Nov Unemployment Rate Totaled 4.25 Percent

PY1101010691 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Douglas Correa report from Rio de Janeiro]

[Text] The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics [IBGE] today reported that the rate of open unemployment in November 1990 stood at 4.25 percent of the work force, practically the same rate as that of October when the unemployment rate stood at 4.21 percent. The November 1990 unemployment rate is, however, far higher than that of November 1989, when it stood at 2.49 percent.

The IBGE also reported that the average real earnings of those having jobs in October 1990 dropped in all metropolitan regions when compared to their earnings in October 1989. The sharpest drops occurred in Recife, 32 percent; Salvador and Rio de Janeiro, 28 percent; and Sao Paulo, 27 percent.

Prices for 400 Medicines To Drop by 60 Percent

PY1101023891 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Prices for some 400 medicines will drop by 60 percent. This agreement was reached today in Brasilia among the commercial, industrial, and government sectors.

When Justice Minister Jarbas Passarinho arrived to participate in the meeting, the agreement was definitely consolidated. Representatives of the pharmaceutical industries agreed to reduce the prices of 400 medicines. Commercial sector representatives did not have any other alternative; they also agreed to reduce prices.

In October 1990, after the liberation of prices, medicine prices increased up to 1,967 percent. [passage omitted]

Chile

Government Backs UN Leader's Gulf Peace Effort

PY1001234891 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has issued a communique in which the Chilean Government supports the efforts UN Secretary Javier Perez de Cuellar will make to achieve peace in the Middle East. The government also advocates any other effort aimed at preventing a war.

The document also states Chile's position since the beginning of the conflict. The Chilean Foreign Ministry has closely followed the development of events in the Persian Gulf area and has issued a communique in which it establishes Chile's position regarding the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The communique says that in keeping with its traditional support for peace and the norms of international rights, the Chilean Government has maintained its decisive support for the UN Security Council resolutions, which demand the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait, and for the full reestablishment of the principles of international rights, which the Iraqi aggression has seriously harmed.

The communique adds that Chile continues to have confidence that the conflict will be solved peacefully and expresses its wish for a successful negotiation.

In view of this situation, the Foreign Ministry is carrying out several actions in various sectors. In the diplomatic sphere, permanent consultations are being maintained with friendly countries, especially with those belonging to the political coalitions in which Chile takes part. In the domestic area, a tight interministerial coordination is being maintained to analyze measures to face the effects a conflict may have on several sectors of the country.

The communique concludes by saying that measures have been adopted to protect the lives of Chileans who remain in the area of conflict.

Plane Ready To Leave, Evacuate Citizens in Gulf

PY1101000191 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Ministry Cabinet Chief Claudio Vasquez has reported that a Boeing 707 airplane of the Chilean Air Force (FACh) will leave at 1000 [1300 GMT] on Friday from the Arturo Merino Benitez Airport to evacuate the diplomatic personnel and their relatives from the Chilean embassies in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Syria in view of the imminent war in the Persian Gulf. Vasquez will be among the FACh crew members. The plane will return to Santiago on Sunday at midnight or early on Monday morning. Only strictly necessary personnel will remain at our embassies in those countries. This decision was made by the Foreign Ministry in view of a possible war in the Persian Gulf.

3-Month Oil Supply Available in Case of War

PY1101023091 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Planning and Coordination Minister Sergio Molina, in his capacity as government coordinator for the Middle East crisis, has stated that Chile has enough oil reserves to last just over three months. He also noted that the current oil price in Chile is equivalent to the international price.

[Begin Molina recording] Our oil price is equivalent to the international price. Moreover, we have purchased oil. The problem will be when we have to replace the oil reserves once they have been consumed. We would have to start replacing our reserves in mid-March; in about two months time. We have signed contracts for oil at the old price that will also start arriving in Chile. Therefore, the problem lies in the variables that cannot be predicted, that are mere speculation, such as the level of prices and time. [end recording]

Molina added that—according to analysts—if war breaks out, prices will rise and then become stable. He recalled that the government has established a $200 million fund to stabilize oil prices in Chile.

[Begin Molina recording] We can keep oil prices stable for a few months, and the supply for several months. [end recording]

Enap [National Petroleum Enterprise] has an oil reserve that it has already purchased; it has also signed contracts at preestablished prices that safeguard the oil supply for over three months.

As for the business sector's request that the government refrain from implementing policies that might distort the permanent price policy, Molina said that it was a point of view shared by government authorities.

Regarding possible measures to conserve energy, he said he could not make any announcements about a possibility that has still not surfaced.

He also voiced his confidence in the peace-seeking efforts being carried out by the UN.

Molina ended by stating that fruit exports to the conflict area are not significant—approximately seven percent—and, although he admitted a war could affect freight costs for Chilean goods, it would not be significant.

Minister Molina has been appointed coordinator for the government working committee, which is also made up of Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma; the finance, economy, mining, and transportation ministers; the National Energy Commission president; and the Enap president.

Politicians React to Charges of Smear Campaign

Army Charges 'Harsh Campaign'

PY1001205591 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Many political leaders from inside and outside the ruling coalition have reacted to the declaration by the Army on the increasingly harsh campaign against that institution.

Socialist Party President Jorge Arrate has said that the responsibility of individuals is being investigated, that the alleged campaign against the Army does not exist, and that we are witnessing a campaign of illegal pressure on the courts.

Sergio Bitar, secretary general of the PPD [Coalition of Parties for Democracy], has said that his party will oppose any campaign against other state branches, adding that Chilean democracy cannot be threatened. He concluded that Chilean national security is not at risk, as the Army sustains in its declaration.

Volodia Teitelboim, general secretary of the Communist Party, which moves outside the ruling coalition, has agreed with Jorge Arrate and said that the Army declaration is very serious, particularly as it was released just three weeks after officers staged their self-confinement to barracks.

Baldemar Carrasco, deputy leader of the Christian Democratic Party bloc in the Chamber of Deputies, has said that the declaration was a mistake because his party has never been against the Army. Carrasco said that the trials are against individuals, not against the institution.

Socialist Senator Jaime Gazmuri has said that the declaration appears to be an attempt to pressure Congress because it considers the investigation of the commander in chief's son, not the institution, an offense.

Independent Senator William Thayer has said that, while the Army declaration is tense and reflects a deep concern and annoyance by the Army, it has been handled completely within the institutional framework.

Senator Jaime Guzman from the opposition UDI [Independent Democratic Union] has said that the Army declaration on its cohesion and unity around its legitimate commander in chief calls for a realistic reflection and constitutes an element of cooperation with which to strengthen the process of democratic consolidation.

UDI Secretary Joaquin Lavin said the Army declaration is opportune and meaningful. Lavin said that the Army was criticized in the past for using force while today it is criticized for engaging in verbal protests.

National Renewal Party President Andres Allamand has called on the Army and the government to do the utmost to normalize their relations.

[Begin Allamand recording] We think that if the government and the Army remain within their respective jurisdictions, according to the present institutional order, it will be possible to achieve rapprochement. We think that all sectors, including political leaders, government officials, some high-ranking Army commanders, the public, and the press can make a concerted effort to clear the rarefied atmosphere that currently affects normal Army-government relations.

It is not a matter of allegations. We are currently living in a negative climate of mistrust, accusations, charges, and allegations that cannot be proven. These elements have contributed to what we call a rarefied atmosphere. If we work together we can clarify this situation. [end recording]

Allamand said that the Army believes, from a position of logic, that its unity is being threatened and consequently our national security is also being threatened.

Supreme Court President Denies Pressure

PY1001124091 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Excerpts] After meeting with President Patricio Aylwin, Supreme Court President Luis Maldonado has stated that the Army has not filed any complaint through Military Prosecutor Torres Silva with this high-level court on the investigations into the illegal La Cutufa financial enterprise.

[Begin recording] [Maldonado] The Army has not filed any complaint with the Supreme Court.

[Unidentified reporter] But Prosecutor Torres....

[Maldonado, interrupting] Nothing.

[Reporter] ...went to your office.

[Maldonado] Yes. He went to talk with me. That is an entirely different matter. He did not file any brief.

[Reporter] Some sectors believe that the action was going too far. What do you think?

[Maldonado] I cannot comment on this subject.

[Reporter] Was it a proper course of action?

[Maldonado] There was no pressure. Why should they exert pressure on us? It is not necessary. We have to apply the law, and there is no need to exert pressure to do that. Everyone knows that we are not going to tolerate any pressure now, nor have we ever done so. You may rest assured that there have been no problems with the Army, none at all. [end recording] [passage omitted]

PDC Deems Army Support Declaration Unnecessary

PY1001123091 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] We agree that the investigations involving people linked to the Army must be carried out with safeguards for their honor and free of prejudice regarding behavior. This was stated in a communique issued by the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] and read by its chairman, Andres Zaldivar, in response to the declaration issued by the Army.

The PDC states that the declaration was unnecessary because the behavior of Army personnel reflects the Army's internal cohesion and subordination to government authorities. Moreover, this sort of declaration could be misinterpreted by the citizenry, possibly damaging national coexistence and Chile's image abroad.

The PDC communique points out that there is no intention of discrediting the Armed Forces and that the investigations being conducted by the Chamber of Deputies cannot be said to have this purpose.

[Begin Zaldivar recording] It should not be stated or believed that the investigations being conducted by the state bodies, in compliance with legal and constitutional norms, are aimed at harming the integrity of the Armed Forces institutions or that they may affect them in such a way.

These investigations could affect individuals who have allegedly carried out illegal actions which must be clarified on the basis of basic principles. [end recording]

Andres Zaldivar reiterated that the government, the Coalition of Parties for Democracy, and the PDC have never launched a campaign to divide or destroy any of the armed institutions.

Regarding the current investigations, Zaldivar agreed that they must be carried out while taking into account the honor of the people affected, free of prejudice, and that the information gathered should respect those rights.

The PDC communique ends by making an appeal to all Chilean citizens to overcome the conflicts dividing the country.

Communist Leader Criticizes Communique

PY1001231391 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Volodia Teitelboim, the main leader of the Communist Party of Chile, has stated that the Communists do not want the Army to lose face. Teitelboim has met with President Patricio Aylwin.

Teitelboim described the Army communique as a serious matter.

[Begin recording] [Teitelboim] It is absolutely false. We consider the communique to be redundant and detrimental to Chile's reputation because we are not on that short, gloomy OAS list of countries where militarism is considered to be a threat to the constitutional system, as is the case in Argentina, Suriname, and Haiti. This is painful.

We do not believe anyone is seeking to divide the Army and no campaign is being orchestrated against anyone. There are simply some matters that must be investigated and, if any civilian or military man is found guilty, he must be naturally be brought to justice through a fair trial.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Teitelboim] I believe some Army sectors want the public to believe that a campaign against the Army is under way. This is not the case. This is not true at all. We, Communists, are not engaged in such a campaign and I believe no other political sector is. It is simply not a good idea to put the Army in a sort of pillory on behalf of those who must answer to an investigative committee of the National Congress or to charges in court. [end recording]

Asked if he believes the Army is seeking an amnesty law, Teitelboim said:

[Begin Teitelboim recording] The people who feel guilty for having committed illegal actions may seek some sort of amnesty and perhaps some sort of exchange, that is, that no action be taken or that no one be brought to trial in exchange for the release of political prisoners, for instance. This would be a kind of amnesty. [end recording]

The following Communist leaders also attended the meeting with President Aylwin: Gladys Marin, Jorge Insunza, and Lautaro Carmona.

Chief of Staff Declines To Comment on Criticism

PY1001130091 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] General Luis Henriquez, chief of the national defense staff, has refused to comment on remarks by Colonel Cristian Labbe, retired, who said the government selected Henriquez in an attempt to distort relations with the Armed Forces. Henriquez also refused to say whether he participated in the drafting of an Army document on a campaign allegedly aimed at dividing the Armed Forces. He admitted, however, that he did sign the document.

Asked whether this situation is good for the tranquillity of the country and for easing tension, Henriquez replied:

[Begin Henriquez recording] Each person should draw his own conclusions. I reiterate, however, that I will make no statement on this type of specific situation, because it is not my duty to do so. Whenever there is an interesting issue involving the national defense staff, I will gladly meet you and talk with you, as befits people of our qualifications, who should be able to talk together and understand each other perfectly well. [end recording]

Finally, Henriquez said he knew nothing about a possible visit to La Moneda Palace by General Pinochet.

Government Support Grows Following Army Incident

PY1001202591 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] The results of a poll performed by the Institute for New Chile were made public today. The poll was performed between 3 and 5 January, and it reveals that the people's support for President Aylwin has grown. Since the confinement to barracks of the Army, the number of government supporters has grown by 4.4 percent.

This information was released by Hugo Rivas and (Lincoyan Zepeda), who explained that 500 people were polled. (Zepeda) said that the confinement of the Army caused concern among 31.9 percent of the people.

[Begin (Zepeda) recording] The people hold in high regard the role that President Aylwin played during that incident. The people very negatively view the role played by the commander in chief of the Army. [end recording]

(Zepeda) added that 38.3 percent of those polled believe that the objective of the Army's confinement to barracks was to frighten the government. He noted that President Aylwin received the highest rating, 5.8 percent, for his behavior during this episode, while the Army commander in chief received 3.2. [sentence as heard]

Despite this, the people said that Chilean democracy remains as stable as before the Army self-confinement. Some of those polled estimate that a similar situation is likely to happen again.

Between 60 and 80 percent of those polled are against stopping the investigations that could affect members of the Armed Forces.

Finally, 58.5 percent of those polled say that they would like the Army commander in chief to leave his post.

Labor Problems Lead Aylwin To Cancel Appearance

PY1101013491 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] The president of the Republic will not attend the dedication of a hydroelectric plant in Puerto Montt. The reason for this decision has been reported in a communique released by the Presidency Press Secretariat.

The communique states that the government has observed with concern the successive dismissal of employees that Endesa [National Electric Company, Inc.] has carried out over the past few weeks, especially considering that most of these workers are highly trained experts and have served this company for several years.

The communique adds that this situation is worrisome because Endesa made a commitment with the National Energy Commission not to take this type of measure. Despite this, the company dismissed over 200 employees in November and 435 early in January 1991.

The communique concludes by saying that under these circumstances, the president of the Republic considers it inopportune to attend the dedication of the (Canantiar) hydroelectric plant, which is scheduled for 16 January.

Expanded Presidential Pardon Authority Approved

PY1001130691 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] By a vote of 34 to eight, with two abstentions, the Senate has approved an amendment of Article 9 of the Constitution which expands the president's power to grant pardons to people sentenced for terrorist crimes committed before 11 March 1990. After an intense debate, which was halted only for lunch, the senators approved the amendment through a secret vote system proposed by the UDI [Democratic Independent Union] committee.

Justice Minister Francisco Cumplido, who attended the session, disagreed with the text of a clause which, in his opinion, distorts the agreements reached by the committee.

Senator Jaime Guzman, who delivered a speech that was strongly critical of the amendment, said terrorism will now be able to seriously jeopardize institutional stability in the future.

Meanwhile, more than 150 relatives of political prisoners in the Santiago prison continue their occupation of the prison's visitors area. There have been no incidents during the four-day occupation, but the atmosphere is becoming more tense.

Acting Interior Minister Beliario Velasco said the occupation of the prison represents an illegitimate form of pressure, and that this has hindered the approval of constitutional reforms. There are (?275) political prisoners being held in prisons all over the country.

Foreign Minister Congratulates Haitian Counterpart

PY1001135091 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma has congratulated his Haitian counterpart Paul Latortue over the reaction of the Haitian people and Government to stop the coup staged early on 7 January.

The note sent by Silva Cimma says:

I would like to convey the congratulations of the Chilean Government and people for the extraordinary reaction of the Haitian Government and people, who strengthened Haitian democracy in the face of the crisis unleashed by the aggression of minority sectors that promote violence.

The note goes on to say: The noble testimony of your people is linked with the irreversible destiny of democracy, to which my country is strongly committed.

It should be noted that initial estimates indicate that the coup attempt in Haiti, the continent's poorest nation, caused more than 100 deaths and losses totaling more than $50 million.

La Serena Described as Important Cocaine Route

PY1101003691 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Gustavo Godoy report from La Serena]

[Text] Edgardo Pazos, Fourth Region Justice Ministry secretary, has stated that in the past few years, the city of La Serena has become an important route for the trafficking of cocaine smuggled into the country, primarily from Bolivia.

Pazos also said that it has been established that the criminals who usually operate in this area have recently started to indulge in the profitable trade of cocaine trafficking, especially cocaine paste, which is much more dangerous than pure cocaine.

Pazos said La Serena has become a mandatory route between Arica and Los Andes for cocaine, as well as marijuana and especially, the so-called chilombiana [native Colombian marijuana variety with hallucinogenic powers grown in Chile], which causes serious problems and psychological damage.

Pazos based his information on data obtained by the La Serena Investigative Police during operations in this area.

The justice secretary asserted that it has been established that traffickers in La Serena and the surrounding area sell pure cocaine paste to obtain money to continue travelling to southern Chile; this represents a serious threat to those who consume it. Proof of this is the fact that a gram of cocaine costs 15,000 to 16,000 Chilean pesos and cocaine paste only costs 1,500 to 2,000 Chilean pesos. Pazos ended by stating that this type of cocaine, according to information, is being consumed by university students in the area.

Colombia

EPL Agrees To Surrender Weapons 1 Mar

PA1101012691 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 2200 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Jairo Tarasona report]

[Text] Attention: The Popular Liberation Army [EPL] will lay down its weapons on 1 March, according to a draft agreement which has just been signed here at the Narino Presidential Palace.

On 9 and 10 January the Advisory Board for Peace Issues and the EPL Negotiating Commission met to set forth the terms and timetable for the final agreement, which will conclude with a peace negotiation process between the government and the EPL. The agreement will be presented for review and approval at the EPL national conference to be held on 26 and 27 January. The government and the EPL will work together to guarantee success of the draft agreement.

Let us now listen to Jaime Fajardo, one of the EPL leaders, who has details on the draft agreement that was signed here at the Narino Palace a few minutes ago.

[Begin Fajardo recording] The details of the commitments that were made have been set forth in a document signed by the parties. The most outstanding points of the draft agreement are the guarantees offered by the government to guarantee the legal presence of the political organization that will result from this peace process.

The fulfillment of the final agreement will be supervised by an international mechanism to be defined in the near future. It will include governments and nongovernmental agencies, whose participation is being requested at this time by both sides.

As part of this draft agreement, the EPL will lay down its weapons completely on 1 March in compliance with the procedures that were agreed upon and contained in the signed minutes of the meeting, that refer to several activities to be held at the campsites, that refer to the promotion of the peace process, and that address the safety of the constituent assembly spokespersons and participants.

Those commitments will be supervised by an Episcopal Conference commission made up of Monsignor Rodrigo Escobar and Monsignor Guillermo Vega. They must be fulfilled between 14 January and 1 March. [end recording]

In addition, the EPL will have two spokesmen at the National Constituent Assembly starting on the day of its installation and for as long as the demobilization process continues. Once the demobilization process is completed, the president of the Republic will declare them full members.

The government has also committed itself to guaranteeing the necessary conditions to hold the national conference of EPL fighters to be held on 26 and 27 January.

We must also note that the national government and the EPL have issued another call to the FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] and the ELN [Army of National Liberation] to join the peace process and not let the opportunity go by to participate in the great scenario of democratic reconciliation offered by the National Constituent Assembly.

EPL Spokesmen on Guerrillas Returning to Camp

PA1101032091 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 5 Jan 91 p 6-A

[Text] Anibal Palacio, spokesman for the Popular Liberation Army (EPL) and member of the negotiating commission, has reported that 17 guerrillas who had deserted the guerrilla camp in Putumayo some months ago returned yesterday.

However, those 17 rebels are not related to the ones who abandoned Labores a few days ago.

In addition, Jairo Morales, member of the EPL Command said that four of the 25 rebels who abandoned Labores (Antioquia) last week, also returned to the camp.

Regarding that incident, Morales categorically denied that a doctor of the Army of National Liberation organized the action, as the government has said.

Police Capture FARC Guerrilla Commander 'Raul'

PA1001224591 Paris AFP in Spanish 2107 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Santa Marta, Colombia, 10 Jan (AFP)—Guerrilla Commander "Raul," from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), was among a group of subversives captured in the last few hours, according to Colonel Hugo Sanabria, police chief of Magdalena Department, located on the Caribbean coast.

The guerrilla leader, whose real name is Juan Manuel Nieves Castro, is being held prisoner in this resort, located on the Colombian Caribbean coast, under strict security, Sanabria said.

"Raul" is considered to be the commander of the different FARC fronts operating in Magdalena and Bolivar Departments.

Col. Sanabria also said that "Raul" is responsible for several ambushes of military and police patrols, which have occurred in this part of the country in the last few weeks and he has specifically been accused of attacking a narcotics police patrol on 2 January in Cienaga Municipality; 12 policemen were killed in the attack.

The FARC guerrillas, with the support of the National Liberation Army [ELN], have unleased a terrorist escalation without respite in most parts of the country by attacking towns, small police and Army posts, blowing up oil pipelines, and electricity and television towers.

The clashes between the Army and the FARC and ELN guerrillas, which have taken place every day since the beginning of the year, have already left more than 40 soldiers dead.

FARC Rebels Kidnap 15 Soldiers in Meta

PA1101042191 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1920 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Bogota, 10 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Military sources reported today that FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] rebels kidnapped 15 soldiers after they attacked an Army communication post in southern Meta Province.

According to the report, the soldiers were taken hostage by the FARC rebels after a clash in which eight rebels and two soldiers were killed.

The violence unleashed by the FARC in different parts of the country over the past hours has resulted in the following: 20 people—including rebels and soldiers—killed, eight vehicles burned, and two communication towers destroyed.

The FARC rebels blew up a civil aviation radar in Tambo municipality in southern Cauca Department. There were no victims, but the property damage totals more than 1.1 billion pesos, approximately $560,000.

The tower destroyed by the rebels was used in operations to fight drug trafficking and the guerrillas in the southern part of the country.

An official source reported that clashes between the FARC rebels and the government soldiers have been going in the Meta, Putumayo, and Magdalena Provinces since early this morning.

Also in Cali, 300 km to the southeast of Bogota, the authorities arrested three National Liberation Army (ELN) rebels when they rescued two young people who had been kidnapped by these rebels on 7 August.

In the northern Santander Department, the ELN rebels attacked the Cano Limon-Covenas pipeline again and operations had to be stopped for several days.

FARC Attack on Barrancabermeja Airport Thwarted

PA1001200791 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Three guerrillas were killed and war materiel, including explosives, was confiscated during an armed clash between regular Army troops and a FARC [Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia] unit which assaulted and tried to take over the Yariquies Airport installation at the Barrancabermeja oil port.

The guerrillas began their entry through the south side of the landing strip, when they were surprised by a Nueva Granada Air Battalion patrol. The daring action by the FARC's 12th Front took place early early this morning, at 0430, when the airport had only one policeman on guard and the control tower personnel.

The timely military patrol avoided the attack that would have caused millions in losses and would have adversely affected air traffic between Bucaramanga [as heard] and Bogota. The clash lasted about 30 minutes and left three guerrillas dead. Twelve kg of dynamite and 11 meters of slow fuse, as well as arms and ammunition, were confiscated.

According to military sources, the FARC intended to attack an airplane and the control tower. Initially, Yariquies Airport was closed down, but it is now back in service.

Liberal Party Senator Said Kidnapped in Medellin

PA1101030391 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0136 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 10 Jan (EFE)—Senator Ivan Gomez Osorio of the Liberal Party was kidnapped today in this city, the capital of Antioquia Department, according to authorities.

Gomez Osorio, a lawyer and former university professor, was elected to replace murdered political leader Federico Estrada Velez during the legislative and municipal elections held in Colombia on 11 March 1990.

Estrada Velez was apparently murdered by the drug trafficking mafia in May of last year.

The police said that Gomez Osorio, who is also an assistant manager at a local company, was surrounded by several unidentified individuals, who forced him to get out of his vehicle and to get into another one which then took off for an unknown location.

Authorities began a number of raids in a vast area located in southwestern Medellin to try to rescue him.

Relatives of the kidnapped politician said that Gomez Osorio had not received threats of any kind.

Authorities admitted they did not know if the kidnapping was carried out by drug traffickers, guerrillas, or common criminals.

Ecuador

President Concerned With Persian Gulf Situation

PA1101001291 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2307 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] President Rodrigo Borja has expressed his concern over the outcome of the situation in the Persian Gulf if a peaceful solution is not found. He insisted that Ecuador's position is one of support for all the UN Security Council actions and resolutions.

[Begin recording] [Borja] We are truly concerned. I am personally very pessimistic about the prospects for a peaceful solution to the conflict because I have seen too much intransigence, basically on the part of Mr. Saddam. I thought there was nothing to negotiate in Geneva. I was surprised that the dialogue between the U.S. secretary of state and the Iraqi foreign minister was held because I do not see what they could discuss if they have such opposing and contradictory views. I always thought it would be difficult for them to reach an agreement, compromise or rapprochement on these problems.

[Unidentified reporter] Does the Ecuadoran representative to the UN have precise instructions and if so, what are they?

[Borja] As you know, Ecuador became a member of the Security Council after the Security Council had already made its decision on the use of force if Iraq does not withdraw out from Kuwait. Therefore, Ecuador did not participate in that decision. Nevertheless, it supports that decision because we cannot accept the traditional view that a military victory gives rights. (?We cannot accept) that a militarily strong country like Iraq invades a small country like Kuwait and takes over it. We maintain the position that Iraq has to withdraw its troops from Kuwait and that this is an essential condition for the solution of the problem.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Borja] [Words indistinct] throughout human history and in part from the military decisions.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Borja] Impractical politicians usually say that we do not know what to do with the petroleum money stemming from the increase in oil prices. That money is part of a stabilization fund, used to prepare for either the possibility of a Persian Gulf conflict or a diplomatic solution of the conflict. Those are the extreme possibilities. International analysts estimate that if there is a conflict in the Persian Gulf, the price of petroleum will go up to nearly $100 a barrel. If there is a diplomatic solution, petroleum will drop to less than $10 a barrel. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez said that at this time the important thing is to support and strengthen the action of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who is traveling to Baghdad on an especially difficult mission. He said Perez de Cuellar needs the support of the entire international community.

[Begin Cordovez recording] [Words indistinct] strengthening the international community's action so that the problem will be resolved. [end recording]

Paraguay

Colorado Party Endorses Government Decree

PY1001225391 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 10 Jan 91 p 6

[Text] The Colorado Party Executive Board yesterday analyzed the consequences of the resignation of Senator Waldino Ramon Lovera as Senate president. By a vote of 25 to one, the predominant Colorado Traditionalist Movement approved a resolution that supports the presidential decree which it considers to be "in keeping with the constitutional principle."

At the beginning of the session, Colorado Party leader Oscar Facundo Insfran referred to Lovera's resignation and proposed that the matter be analyzed because "this is a political situation that must be carefully discussed." He then referred to the constitutional aspect of the decree that was approved by President Rodriguez. He also criticized Lovera's attitude "because he made his decision without consulting either the Colorado Party leadership or other Colorado Party lawmakers."

Insfran then voiced "his concern over this, the significance of which should be considered without dramatizing or downplaying its consequences."

Colorado Party Senator Juan Manuel Frutos, after briefing the constitutional process on the calling of a National Assembly, suggested that the Colorado Party Executive Board issue a resolution in which it establishes its position regarding the presidential decree. It must be noted that this resolution had already been drafted in a preliminary meeting held this morning by the "Autonomous" Traditionalist Movement.

Miguel Angel Ramirez, the punic Democratic Alliance Faction member, disagreed with the decision to issue a resolution and proposed releasing a press communique to report the party's position on the grounds that "it is not convenient to turn a congressional matter into a political one." He added: "Let us analyze the matter from a congressional viewpoint."

After several Colorado Party Executive Board members referred to the matter, Colorado Party acting president Luis Maria Argana finally addressed the session and proposed submitting Frutos' proposal to a vote. The proposal was approved with a majority.

Ramirez put on the record that his vote "was against any resolution." At the end of the session Ramirez criticized the attitude of the members of the Colorado Traditionalist Movement, which he described as "a comedy with a rehearsed libretto."

Rodriguez Leaves for 3-Day Visit to Uruguay

PY1001171791 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Heading a small delegation, President Andres Rodriguez this morning left for Uruguay to meet with his Uruguayan counterpart, Luis Alberto Lacalle Herrera.

President Rodriguez left for Montevideo on a regular Paraguayan Airlines flight. During his three-day visit, Rodriguez will meet Lacalle and will seek to promote bilateral projects. [passage omitted]

Peru

Senator Reports Terrorist Casualty Statistics

PY1101005091 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Terrorist casualties over the past decade totalled 19,263 [as heard] people. Of this total, 7,970 were civilians, 1,445 were policemen, and 9,621 were terrorists. These revealing figures were provided by Senator Enrique Bernales, president of the Senate's Pacification Committee.

[Begin recording] [Bernales] The country is living in a situation of internal war. All Peruvians should be conscious of this. We cannot pretend that the problem does not exist because the dead belong to the other side. In fact, we are all dying a little in Peru.

[Unidentified reporter] Why did pacification efforts fail?

[Bernales] Because in situations like this the index of solidarity drops while the index of egoism rises. I think we are being too egoistic.

[Reporter] What are the figures on casualties for the first five months of this administration?

[Bernales] Approximately 1,500.

[Reporter] How was the economy affected in the past decade?

[Bernales] Losses are calculated at $18 billion. [end recording]

Shining Path Members Kill 4 Soldiers in Ambush

PY1001233691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1818 GMT 9 Jan 91

[Text] Lima, 9 Jan (EFE)—A Defense Ministry source reported today that the Shining Path killed four Peruvian soldiers and injured about 10 others in an ambush at the jungle village of Ramal Azpusana, Tingo Maria Province (400 km east of Lima). The source reported that the attack took place on 8 January and involved at least 100 members of the Maoist group, who were carrying dynamite and long-range rifles.

The military patrol, which was returning to its barracks on motorcycles and in a car, killed an undetermined number of guerrillas in a long fight in the forest. The Shining Path attackers fled when a National Police Antinarcotics Division helicopter accidentally began flying over the site.

Raul Ferrero Costa, chairman of the Senate Human Rights Committee, has reported that in the Andean Province of Huancavelica, 600 km from Lima, about 200 peasants have disappeared in the last six months. Ferrero, who is a member of the conservative Freedom Movement, reported on 8 January that relatives of the missing peasants have said that the security forces and "the military and police chiefs not only refuse to help the peasants, but hinder investigations aimed at finding the culprits."

Peruvian human rights groups believe that about 4,000 people have been captured or disappeared in the 10 years of armed fighting and that over 21,000 have been killed during this period. In their opinion, losses have totaled about $20 billion, which is equivalent to 90 percent of the Peruvian foreign debt.

Venezuela

Perez Views Persian Gulf, 'Emerency Measures'

PA1101012891 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0011 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] While the initiatives in the search for a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict seem to be wearing out, the entire world is anxiously awaiting 15 January.

President Carlos Andres Perez said that Venezuela should not fear any direct role in the event war breaks out in the Persian Gulf, but added that our country has prepared emergency measures to defend our resources.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] How will this war specifically affect Venezuela?

[Perez] This war will affect not only Venezuela, but the entire world. In the first place, all wars harm mankind.

In the second place, this war would have very grave economic consequences for all countries of the world. We must not forget that the Middle East is the reservoir of nearly 50 percent of the fuel resources of mankind. [end recording]

Plane Crashes With Military Personnel on Board

PA1101023091 Paris AFP in Spanish 0201 GMT 11 Jan 91

[Text] Merida, Venezuela, 10 Jan (AFP)—A Venezuelan AVENSA Airlines plane crashed today with 25 people on board in a mountainous region of Chacanta, south of Merida, and some 500 km southwest of Caracas, according to local reporters.

Radio Caracas Television reported on the accident at 2115 local (0115 GMT) and added that the plane was carrying Venezuelan military personnel.